

Vandalism

Vandalism on construction sites in the commercial construction industry is a problem that can affect productivity and drain profits. This is a national problem that will not go away. It does require everyone to take an active role in reducing the opportunity for vandalism. Sites are most vulnerable on weekends and overnight. Contractors should keep excellent records, have after-hour contacts, and be willing to prosecute.

Aside from cleaning or repairing equipment, tools and machines, there are much bigger costs involved when it comes to vandalism on construction sites.

Many project coordinators specifically plan how many pieces of equipment need to be on-site doing what specific jobs each day to stay on track. When a piece of equipment is damaged, it can't be used which throws a wrench in the plan of the entire project. Budgets can get messed up and project timelines can be delayed. In specific cases, it could even lead to projects coming to a complete standstill.

Of course, the extent of the damage or vandalism could have bigger or smaller consequences, depending on how quickly you can repair the damage or get a replacement machine on site.

Tips for preventing vandalism on the jobsite:

Post signs • "Private Property" • "Security Cameras in Use" but only if there are cameras on site. • "No Trespassing" • Post signs that vehicles may be searched. • Contractor's and builder's contact information. • Rewards Program Signs - Use on gates, buildings, perimeter fencing, tool sheds, and job trailers. • Reward Flyers - These highly visible flyers can be used on gang boxes, trailers, small equipment, storage sheds and port-a-potties. In addition these flyers can be distributed to homes and businesses close by to job sites.

Surveillance Cameras • The idea of being caught on video is a great deterrent and can cost effective. When used in conjunction with motion sensor lights at night they can provide valuable information. • IP (Web based) Surveillance systems – Can be transferred from one jobsite to the next. Video streams are transferred to any location in the world using a standard PC. May include motion detection and two-way audio. • Remote accessibility - Can be linked to a website to give the public the ability to view the progress of a project. • Increase possibility of apprehension – When properly used they do result in deterrence, detection, and prosecution. • Security and Safety - Monitoring worksites can also be used to spot unsafe working conditions and/or procedures.

Access Control

Contractors need to take extra precautions to secure their construction sites. • Change the padlocks on the gates and around the site several times during the construction. You never know how many people have keys. • Use a chain link fence to secure the perimeter of the site. • Walk the perimeter of the site and check for breaches where someone could enter the site, then repair it. • Have someone check out the site several times over the weekend. • Secure storage sheds with good locks. • Install locks as soon as possible. • Challenge strangers on your property or job sites. Show them you are on the alert. • Keep entrances and gates to a minimum. Lock gates when you are done for the day. • Use a reputable Security company. • Wear identification badges with companies' logo. • Include employee search clause in contracts. • Don't leave equipment in remote areas. • Keep equipment and supplies locked up in a securable storage shed.

Communicate • Talk to the neighbor's. They could be potential witnesses of future crimes. • Advise law enforcement and businesses owners of contractors contact information.

