

Ohio Heavy Equipment Theft Fact Sheet

October 2013

Ohio Heavy Equipment Theft by year

Year	Ohio thefts	Rank	Ohio recoveries
2012	308	10th	59
2011	N/R	N/R	N/A
2010	388	10th	84
2009	446	10th	N/A
2008	N/A	8th	N/A
2007	N/A	8th	N/A

Sources: National Insurance Crime Bureau, National Equipment Register

N/A = Info not available

N/R = Not ranked in Top 10

Resources

National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB): www.nicb.org

2012 heavy equipment release: <http://bit.ly/1e9B5Qx>

2012 heavy equipment report: <http://bit.ly/GH3gux>

2011 release: <http://bit.ly/18PEUbQ>

2011 report: <http://bit.ly/17Xq6rW>

National Equipment Register (NER): www.ner.net

Previous heavy equipment theft reports: <http://bit.ly/19AmOYq>

Ohio case studies

• Franklin County, Ohio Sheriff's Office Recovers Stolen Kubota BX25 Backhoe Assisted by the LoJack System

Sept. 5, 2013

<http://bit.ly/16RYIDp>

• (From NER/NICB 2012 report)

Law enforcement collaboration leads to huge recovery

In September of 2012, a detective from the Cortland Police Department contacted the NICB and the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Vehicle Theft Unit requesting assistance in the identification and ownership of several pieces of heavy equipment abandoned at a jobsite by the owner of a construction company in Ohio.

This collaboration resulted in the immediate recovery of three stolen machines valued at more than \$500,000.

A local detective, state trooper, and NICB special agent interviewed the company owner and developed additional leads. Officers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the NICB, and the Cortland, Goshen Township, and Hubbard Township police departments searched another jobsite where they recovered four more stolen machines and developed additional leads.

With the assistance of the Ohio Highway Patrol's aviation section, an Ohio State Patrol Sergeant observed a third suspicious location. A search warrant for this property resulted in the recovery of 33 stolen machines, trailers, cargo containers, and equipment attachments.

Two additional machines were recovered by the Salem and Lordstown Police Departments.

Investigators collected 111 pieces of evidence and interviewed 17 witnesses and victims during the course of the investigation. Many of the recovered pieces of heavy equipment had their serial numbers removed or altered.

The investigative team worked closely with NICB to positively identify the heavy equipment, trailers, and stolen articles that were recovered.

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Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office has filed a Bill of Information against the suspect, who has pleaded guilty and is currently awaiting sentencing.

ALSO SEE: Agencies recover \$2 million in stolen property in Trumbull County

Ohio Highway Patrol, Sept. 21, 2012

<http://statepatrol.ohio.gov/media/2012/12-147.html>

- (From NER/NICB 2011 report)

PIN Switching Thieves

When agents from the FBI's Dayton, Ohio, Resident Agency asked for NICB assistance in identifying heavy equipment, the result was the recovery of 14 stolen items and the dismantling of a prolific heavy equipment theft ring.

Thieves removed the equipment's original PIN plates and replaced them with PIN plates stolen from rented machines. Then they sold the stolen construction equipment with the switched PINS and delivered them to out-of-state third party purchasers.

The machines were identified by secondary PINs and other traceable components.

The NICB agents in the field were assisted by a heavy equipment analyst at NICB headquarters in Des Plaines, Illinois, along with support from equipment manufacturers John Deere and Doosan Bobcat.

On July 31, 2011, the two principal suspects entered guilty pleas before U.S. District Judge Timothy Black, who ordered that they pay restitution in the amount of \$213,576 to the victims and /or insurers of the stolen machines.

- (From NER/NICB 2008 report)

Heavy equipment pins used for insurance fraud

After extensive investigation, the NICB identified the owner of a paving company in Ohio as the mastermind of an insurance scheme that victimized an NICB member company through \$499,380 in fraudulent claims. The culprit further exposed the insurance company to an additional potential loss of \$4 million.

Aided by the NICB's findings, local law enforcement obtained search warrants and recovered incriminating evidence. In April, the owner of the paving company pled guilty in U.S. District Court – Northern District of Ohio to two counts of wire fraud involving 23 other creditors who had sustained more than \$4.2 million in losses from mortgages and claims on nonexistent equipment.

The owner of the paving company carried out his scheme by obtaining financing for equipment he did not own or that did not exist. He then insured the equipment and filed fraudulent claims alleging the theft of equipment that either never existed or was insured by more than one carrier.

The investigation continues even after recovery

A construction company reported the theft of a John Deere backhoe to the Columbus, Ohio, Police Department in March 2009. The report stated that an individual had contacted the National Equipment Register the previous day to check on the background of a similar machine. After the NER official verified the details of the theft, he contacted the NICB.

The NICB contacted the Columbus Police Department, which, in turn, contacted the caller. He admitted to possessing the stolen backhoe and agreed to turn it over. But the investigation did not end there.

Based on questioning the individual, witness testimony, and other evidence, Columbus Police Department detectives determined that the caller was an innocent victim who purchased the stolen backhoe unknowingly. Even though the police officers recovered the equipment, they have since identified an individual and proceeded with their investigation.