

Cargo Security over Long Weekends

Historically, cargo theft occurs with greater frequency over long weekends when many facilities are unoccupied or minimally staffed. For this reason, shippers should typically plan to avoid having cargo in transit over a long weekend to the extent possible, as theft markedly increases during these periods.¹ However, it is not always possible to schedule shipments around long weekends, so we offer the following best practices you should consider implementing to minimize risk any time your cargo will be at rest, and at risk, for extended periods.

For Transit

- Carefully select trucking companies that will move your goods and freight brokers or other intermediaries that will help you arrange transportation. Also verify the identity of the drivers upon their arrival at your site, as fictitious pickups and other cargo fraud schemes are more likely to occur when fewer people are at work. Chubb recently published a Tip Sheet on this topic.
- Take a copy of the driver's license and all identifying details (plate number, color and markings) of the tractor and trailer.
- Establish specific standards of care with the trucking company and driver and establish a communication plan so you can monitor their behavior.
- Require the driver to stop only at established truck stops or rest areas and park their rig in as secure a location as possible - one with good lighting and surveillance if practical. Back the rear of the trailer or container up against a fence, wall or other immovable object to prevent the doors from being opened. Instruct drivers to NEVER drop their trailer unless in an emergency; then they must secure it with a King Pin, air cuff, glad hand or landing gear lock.
- Require drivers to take necessary steps to prevent theft of their truck and/or contents - lock cab doors and ensure security seals or locks on trailers are properly affixed. Also, use a steering wheel lock, "kill" switch or other device. Finally, do NOT leave the keys inside the tractor.
- Embed a covert tracking device inside the load and have it monitored either internally or by a 24/7 third party service. Geo-fencing technology adds a layer of security and should be considered.
- Ensure the destination can accept the shipment as soon as it arrives, regardless of the time, thus eliminating the need for the driver to spend idle time with a full truckload.

For Storage

- Do not leave loaded trailers or ocean containers at your facility; unload inbound goods prior to leaving for the weekend and delay outbound shipments until you return to work.
- Request local law enforcement to patrol your premises frequently and ask any neighbors that may be active over the holiday to keep an eye out.
- Make sure all your security equipment (lighting, alarms, and surveillance cameras) is functional. Do NOT forget any backup power supply such as a generator.
- Ensure all potential access points are secure; this includes perimeter fencing, access gates, windows, skylights, vents and doors.
- Remove all keys from all cargo handling equipment and place them in a secure area (Do NOT make a thief's job any easier). Also, safeguard any sensitive or confidential material.
- Require your staff to investigate all alarms regardless of time and number. Ensure your emergency response names and phone numbers are accurate.

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1. CargoNet, *July 4th Holiday Cargo Theft Trends 2019*, https://www.cargonet.com/siteassets/images/pdf/cargonet-july-4th-infographic-and-security-tips-2019_.pdf