



## Preventing Cargo and Equipment Theft

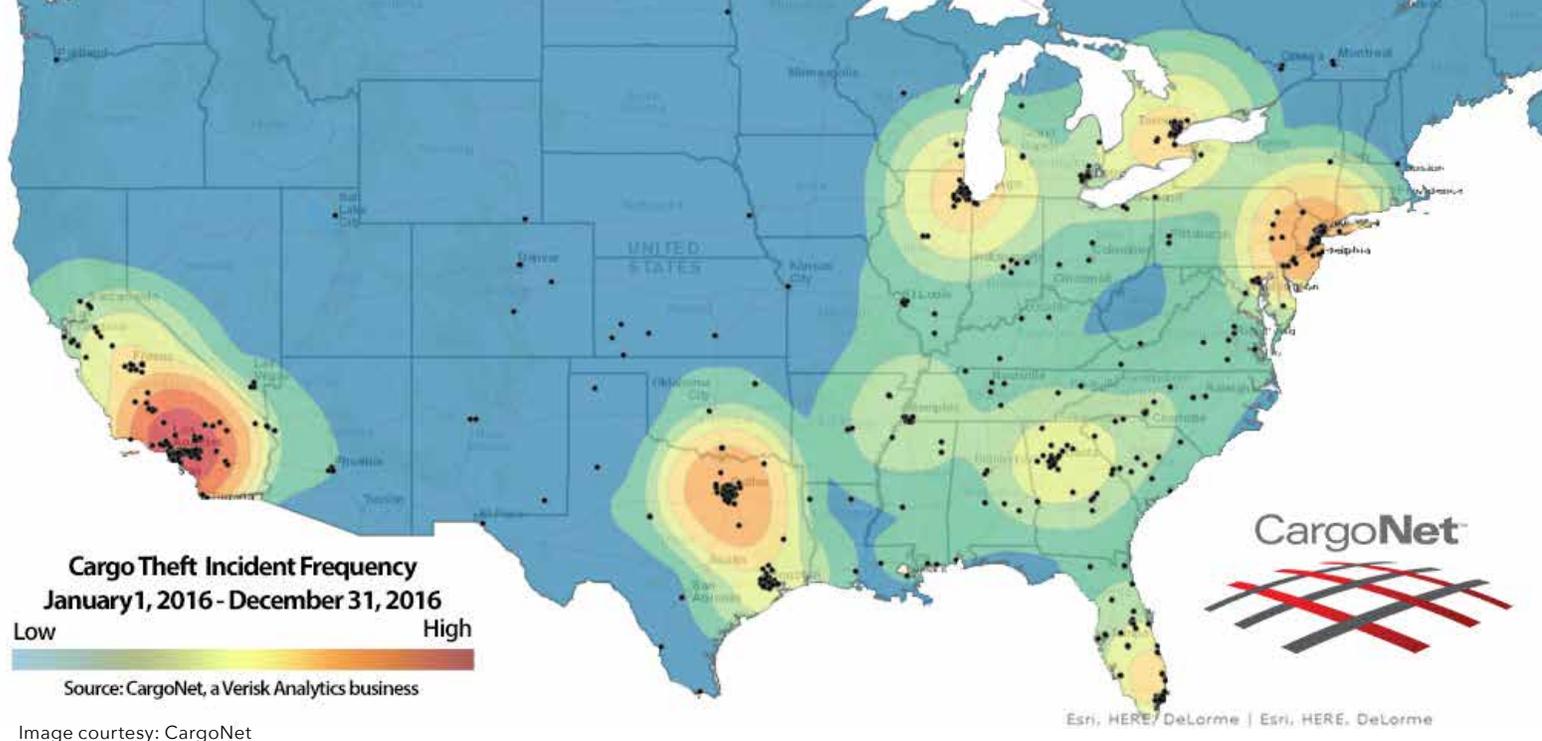
In recent years, the trucking industry has seen a rise in cargo and tractor thefts—and the problem often spikes around the holidays. The most important way to prevent this issue is to promote an organizational culture that values education and knowledge.

### Educate Your Team

By understanding the products you haul and the routes you travel, you can empower drivers to spot potential risks—both of opportunistic theft and planned heists. Talk about theft as part of the new hire orientation process, and develop talking points to ensure drivers, dispatchers and everyone in your organization understands their responsibilities to prevent cargo and equipment theft.

### Top Four Ways to Prevent Cargo & Equipment Theft

- Develop effective hiring standards, including criminal background checks
- Identify high-crime areas on your routes and consider alternative routes where possible
- Keep cargo secured—including parking in secure locations, and keeping trailer doors locked at all times
- Track your loads, and make sure drivers understand proper security procedures



## Multiple Layers of Protection: Tactics and Strategies for Preventing Theft

- Develop effective hiring standards that incorporate complete background checks, including criminal background checks for all employees.
- Identify cargo theft high crime areas in transit, and look for alternative travel. Plan routes to minimize stops and delays. Work with your customers to eliminate excessive layover time, especially when hauling high risk/high value freight. Remember the adage: "Cargo at rest is cargo at risk."
- Never drop loaded trailers in unsecured lots, including truck stops.
- Create dispatch checklist procedures for high value/ high risk freight that are relayed to the driver on dispatch.
- Ensure drivers understand the importance of NOT stopping for at least 200 miles after leaving the shipper. This will lessen the risk if thieves are trailing the load. Drivers having adequate fuel in the tank(s) before picking up the load, and having the available hours to drive, is vital in this step.
- Drivers should be reminded NEVER to speak to anyone about their load or their destination.
- Always use padlocks on trailer doors, and consider using kingpin and air cuff locks to lower the risk of cargo and equipment theft. One thing thieves don't have on their side when stealing cargo is time.
- Use technology advances to your advantage. Satellite tracking of tractors and trailers, embedded tracking in cargo, and geo-fencing technologies that can alert drivers and dispatch when the tractor and trailer leave a preset location, are all tools that can prevent cargo theft and help in the recovery if theft occurs.



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