
Country of origin: Australia



Risctopics

Golf club mobile plant theft

Public

*Police are investigating the theft of 12 golf buggies from a golf club in the remote Pilbara town of Karratha overnight. The Karratha Country Club is reeling after the second theft of the motorised vehicles in a few days.'*¹

Tractors, mowers, golf buggies and other mobile equipment (hereinafter referred to as mobile plant) are essential to the smooth running of every golf club.



Source: toro.com/en/golf

Equipment theft is perceived as a low risk profitable crime because mobile plant is easily stolen and offers a high reward with low detection and prosecution rates. Some theft is not reward based – joy riding and vandalism is an associated problem.



Source: google.com

Aside from player and operating inconvenience there are consequential losses which may not be insured:

- Lost hiring fee revenue
- Higher replacement costs
- Liabilities under hire agreements
- Idle time for greenkeeping staff
- Additional security costs

- Increased premiums and deductibles

Protecting your plant

The onion concept is commonly used to establish a security systems. The idea is to establish multiple layers to deter and detect plant theft. Let's look at the layers:

Site security

Every course is different. By their very nature courses can be hard to secure. All golf course operators can however consider and/or review:

Workshops and sheds

- Mesh fencing is easy to cut. Perimeter fencing should be metal construction, minimum 2.5m high with posts set in concrete. Solid steel spear fencing is preferred.



Source: google.com

- Flood lighting can be used, preferably linked to movement detectors. Mount lights as high up as practicable to prevent malicious damage.

- Workshops and sheds where plant is stored should have monitored burglar alarms and CCTV.

- Protect entry points:
 - Doors should have heavy duty deadlocks
 - Windows should have heavy-duty steel bars or grilles
 - Roller shutters should be padlocked on the

inside with shutter bottoms fixed to the floor in the middle with hasp/staple and padlock



Source: google.com

- Roller shutter motors should be electrically isolated (turned off in a padlocked distribution board)

Mobile plant security

Having secured where your mobile plant is kept it's time to think about the next layer – securing your equipment:

- Return mobile plant to your secure workshop at the end of the day. If storing outside use case hardened chains and padlocks to chain plant together.
- Don't leave mobile plant on trailers. This just makes it easier to move. Trailer locks and wheel clamps are an option.



Source: google.com

- Secure keys in good quality key cabinets.



Source: google.com

Immobilise and track

A wide range of vehicle / mobile plant security systems are available. Options include:

- Immobilisers which electronically prevent engine start unless the correct key is present.



Source: google.com

- Geo-fencing which allows you to set permissible area parameters. If the mobile plant leaves the area you will be alerted.



Source: google.com

- GPS trackers to help physically track stolen mobile plant



Source: google.com

- Systems should be designed for your circumstances, robust and fitted in a secure, concealed and weatherproof box
- Audible alarms are only useful if within earshot. If used consider them as

complementary to other anti-theft systems. As a stand alone measure alarms may not protect your equipment.

Plant security management

Any security system include management controls. Staff, contractors and visitors can collude or be actively involved. Make sure you:

- Keep a record of all plant details:
 - Make, model, year
 - Vehicle Identification No. (VIN)
 - Photographs
- Mobile plant should carry permanent identification markings (stamping, etching, engraving in visible and hidden locations. Visible marking deters thieves. Hidden marking aids with identification if the unit is stolen and stripped.
- Maintain a key register:
 - Workshop and plant keys issued to authorised persons
 - Keys accounted for when a staff member leaves
- If you do suffer a loss secure the area for the police. Take photos, prepare your documentation to assist them identify your plant if recovered.

Contingency planning

Disruption can be mitigated by:

- Assessing the likelihood and consequence of mobile plant theft.
- Knowing what to do if critical mobile plant is stolen.
- Identifying hire companies or alternate suppliers

whom can help with replacement at the earliest opportunity.

Summary

Mobile plant is easy to steal. Applying a layered security approach that considers your site, mobile plant and risk management procedures will help you prevent theft and consequential losses.

Support

For further information contact:

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Risktopic: Golf course mobile plant theft

Reference

¹ Karen Michelmore. Posted Tue 23 Jun 2020 at 2:04pm. ABC Pilbara. Karratha Country Club is reeling after a series of golf buggy thefts. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-23/golf-buggy-heist-at-pilbara-golf-club/12383748>

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