

Metal Theft Prevention

In order to prevent and therefore reduce crime, police and other agencies use the following ten principles of crime prevention. Please consider which are applicable to your business and apply them:

1. Target hardening

Make targets less prone to criminal activities. For example:

- Fencing
- Gates
- Locks
- Designing out crime

2. Target removal

Permanently or temporarily remove persons or property that may become the subject of crime. For example:

- Demolishing disused property
- Removal of redundant assets from vulnerable locations

3. Remove the means to commit crime

Ensure that anything that can be used in the commission of crime is not easily available. For example:

- Locking up equipment such as ladders, disc cutters and other tools

4. Reducing the payoff

Reduce the scale of the loss if crime is committed. For example:

- Mark property so that it is easily recognisable
- Keep a minimum amount of stock on site using the “just-in-time” delivery principle
- Use alternative materials

5. Access control

Reduce the access into vulnerable areas. For example:

- Utilise identity/swipe card access facilities
- Entry phones
- Keypad entry systems
- Separate entrances and exits

6. Surveillance

Enable areas to be seen or monitored clearly. Remove or prune overgrowing shrubbery. For example:

- Improve lighting schemes
- CCTV and other technologies
- Security staff
- More frequent and targeted (risk-based) inspections.

7. Environmental design

Use the design of a building or area to reduce the chances for crime being committed. For example:

- No blind corners
- More surveillance including use of glass instead of opaque materials
- Lighting systems/CCTV

8. Rule setting

Introduce levels of acceptable behaviour and a means to achieve this. For example:

- Wearing ID cards
- Signing in at reception upon arrival
- Signage prohibiting access
- Encourage staff to challenge people they don't know
- Robust staff vetting and employment screening

9. Increase the chance of being caught

Increase the risk of being caught in order to reduce the chance of crime being committed. For example:

- Proper maintenance of CCTV/lighting
- Alert offenders to use of CCTV
- Delay offenders' escape (e.g. fencing)

It is important to realise that each compound, depot or work site will not necessarily utilise all ten principles. Each one will need to have its solution tailor-made to suit the circumstances and location.

10. Deflecting Offenders

Secure access roads to premises.

Consider security patrols and publicise this.