



Cargo Thefts Skyrocket: \$694 million stolen in 2023, predicted to surge by 35% in 2024

posted by AJOT | May 14 2024 at 10:23 AM | [Logistics](#)



The average loss per incident for cargo thefts in 2023 increased by 67% from 2022 and is projected to surge by another 35% in 2024.

Strategic cargo theft poses a significant threat to transportation security and supply chain integrity, involving criminal interception of goods in transit, disrupting the flow of goods, and undermining supply chain reliability beyond financial losses.

Most cargo thefts take place near warehouses, distribution centers, and unsecured parking lots. Fraudsters use stolen motor carrier operating authorities or logistics broker identities to obtain freight and misdirect it from the intended receiver.

These incidents continue to impact the revenues and profits of retail businesses and trucking companies, leading to operational disruptions and higher insurance premiums.

Consequently, consumers face higher prices as retail companies pass on these additional costs to offset losses from theft.

“We must prioritize the security of our supply chains and take proactive measures to safeguard against theft,” states Frank Matarazzo, CEO of Fusion Transport.

Methods like identity theft, fictitious pickups, and double brokering scams to steal cargo are common, with the top targets being electronics, food and beverage, and household goods.

Shipment misdirection schemes and fictitious pickups surged by nearly 700% in Q2 of 2023 compared to Q2 of 2022.

Matarazzo advises that companies start at the ground level, identifying red flags while employing comprehensive vetting procedures when selecting cargo carriers to ensure the background and history of the partners are verified.

Additionally, on-the-ground inspections of carriers and equipment coupled with GPS tracking of freight to monitor its whereabouts in real time are essential.

“Many cargo carriers lack a substantial track record and have limited assets, making them hard to vet. It is critical to have the ability to accurately check their credentials, providing the best protection against risk,” concludes Matarazzo.

Frank Matarazzo can further explain the proactive measures that must be implemented by companies to counteract the criminal trend of cargo thefts. Here are a few questions you could ask:

- What are the key factors contributing to the alarming rise in cargo theft incidents?
- How can companies adapt their supply chain strategies to mitigate the impact of rising cargo theft on their operations and profitability?
- Given the surge in fictitious pickups and identity theft tactics, what steps can be taken to verify the legitimacy of cargo carriers and prevent fraudulent activities?
- What are the most innovative security measures that must be adopted by leading logistics companies to protect their shipments?
- What technologies and innovations does Fusion Transport implement to enhance supply chain security and protect against cargo theft?