

Employee Theft: "The fastest growing crime in America"

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington D.C.

Do I need to protect my company from itself?

- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates that 75% of employees steal from the workplace and that most do so repeatedly.
- One third of all U.S. corporate bankruptcies are directly caused by employee theft.
- The Boston Globe and Denver Post newspapers recently reported that U.S. companies lose nearly \$400 Billion per year in lost productivity due to "time theft" or loafing.
- The American Society of Employers estimates that 20% of every dollar earned by a U.S. company is lost to employee theft.

These are devastating statistics for any company. The truth is it doesn't matter how big or small your business is you are getting taken advantage of. Employee theft is ignored and overlooked by those in charge because they don't think there is anything they can do about it. Unfortunately many companies don't start PAYING attention until it's too late. Companies must get pro active to protect themselves, from themselves. Accountability is key!

"I'm a small company; I know when things are missing." Do you? Have you considered all the ways there are to steal from an employer? When we think of theft we tend to think of tangible things, items, or merchandise. The easiest thing to steal from any company is time. It's not just break rooms, water coolers and smoke breaks anymore.

While the computer has become the most important office tool, it has also become the biggest culprit when it comes to time theft. EBay, personal email, and fantasy football are three of the top online time thieves. Software is available for tracking internet traffic. It can generate a report that is emailed directly to you so you get a clear picture of what is really getting done from that desk. Accountability is key!

"Our trucks run the same routes every week. We know exactly where they are." Do you? If your drivers know where they will be on what days then how easy would it be to schedule that appointment, or run those errands on company time? With rising fuel costs can you afford not to know exactly where your vehicles are going and how long they are there? Accountability is key!

GPS technology is changing how companies manage their fleets. GPS units today don't just track the vehicle; they will monitor all types of information and feed it to you as you need it. You can save fuel costs just by watching the idle times on the vehicles. One hour of idle time can burn a gallon of fuel depending on the vehicle. You can manage vehicle maintenance such as: oil changes, tune ups, and brake inspections. You can even watch to see who is wearing their seat belt.

"I don't want to always be looking over my employee's shoulder. I have more important things to worry about." Do you? There are many ways for an employee to take advantage of the company they work for. On the other hand, there are just as many ways for an employer to protect or monitor those assets and their employees. You don't have to constantly look over their shoulder. Accountability is key!

Be proactive. There are systems out there that will report to you so that you can look the information over on your time. You are busy enough running your business, let the systems do the work for you. Can your company afford to hand over twenty cents of every dollar to its employees? Make the investment in protecting your investments. Contact a security specialist today to find out how you can put accountability in place for your company.

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