

## All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) thefts from fenced compounds

Recently there have been two large ATV thefts in rural Manitoba - one for \$70,000 and the other for \$100,000.

In both cases, the ATVs were stolen from a locked, fenced compound with video surveillance. The video cameras captured the thefts, which doesn't appear to have been a deterrent. The thieves spent considerable time at the dealers as well. It took them approximately two hours to remove new ATVs from their crates at one location, while spending 30 minutes at the other dealership. They also stole a truck and trailer from a third location prior to taking the ATVs.

A simple chain link fence and standard video surveillance isn't adequate protection for an ATV storage compound. An alarm component is needed in addition to the physical protection. Preferably ATVs should be stored inside alarmed buildings when possible.

### **The following should be considered when reviewing your compound security for All Terrain Vehicles:**

#### **Intrusion Alarm**

1. Fenced compounds require intrusion alarm protection, which is commonly installed by running wires which trigger an alarm if cut, through a fence. There are other options such as ground vibration sensors that identify activity near the fence. Advancements in technology have reduced false alarms. It's recommended that you consult your alarm company for additional information and available options.
2. A closed loop wire connected to the building's alarm system can be strung through each ATV as well.
3. Intrusion alarms should have line security either through the internet or a cell phone back up to ensure they remain active if phone lines are cut.
4. Infrared photoelectric beams that connected to the building's alarm system can also be installed around the perimeter of the fenced compound.

#### **Video Surveillance**

5. Live monitoring can be added to the video surveillance system. An alarm is triggered when cameras pick up activity in the compound, notifying the monitoring company who would subsequently call the police.
6. Alternatively, video surveillance cameras could notify a cell phone when motion is detected. The Digital Video Recorded (DVR) cameras are connected to motion detectors which notify the designated cell phone when activity is detected by the motion sensor and seen by the cameras. The activity can be observed on your smartphone or computer and necessary action taken. The combination cameras-motion sensors could include speakers, allowing you to talk to the intruders by phone.
7. Large warning signs should be posted in prominent locations advising of the video surveillance.

## Fencing

8. A chain link fence should have additional protection to prevent the fencing from being cut as ATVs can be driven through the opening. Adding horizontal steel bars, or other physical barriers would help.
9. Smaller fenced enclosures can be constructed inside larger compounds to prevent theft. These enclosures can have additional security and design features that aren't required for normal chain link fenced compounds.

## Additional protection

10. Additional security layers may be necessary in locations where police response time could be an issue. For example, ATVs can also be protected by stringing a grade 70 chain through each unit and securing it with professional quality padlocks. While effective, this method has limitations as the chain can be cut with the right tools.

## Exterior lighting

11. Exterior lighting must illuminate the entire compound. Additional spotlights should be installed in areas where target theft items are stored.

Adopting even one or two of the security measures above may end up preventing thousands of dollars in stolen property.

If you have additional questions or would like a Federated Insurance Loss Prevention Consultant to visit your business for a security review, please contact your Federated Insurance Risk Services Coordinator.

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