

Kristine Schreiber

From: Adam Wilberding
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2022 3:02 PM
To: MTP LossControl
Subject: *** MTP Loss Control - Preventing Theft of Catalytic Converters ***

Dear MTP Members,

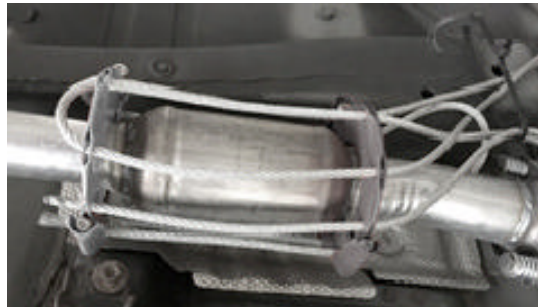
In response to a discussion at this week's MTP Executive Committee Meeting about catalytic converter thefts from a member's fleet, we wanted to share this information.

Thieves are making use of lithium-powered grinders and saws that may quick (in 30 seconds or less) work of cutting out the catalytic converters. It's difficult to completely overcome these portable powered tools in the hands of a determined thief, especially in rural areas. But, theft prevention is often just about becoming a "hardened" target and causing them to move on.

Here is a list of things that can be done by everyone (from personal to fleet vehicles) to become a "hardened" target (courtesy of Allstate and EMC Insurance). Solutions such as these make it more difficult for thieves, which may likely cause them to skip over your vehicles.

How to Prevent Catalytic Converter Theft

- Install an anti-theft device, such as a steel cable, shield or cage that is difficult to cut through, for additional security. See an example of steel cable solution at https://www.napaonline.com/accessories/catclamp-catalytic-converter-lock/1cf1ab01?cid=paidsearch_shopping_dcoe_google&gclid=ds (two photos below). See <https://catshield.com/> for example of shields.



- Park vehicles in well-lit, enclosed areas or in garages when possible. Preventing theft involves putting as many barriers between thieves and their goal.
- Lock vehicles and enable alarms after parking.
- Set up motion sensor lights and security cameras in parking areas to scare off thieves.
- Engrave your license plate number or VIN number into the catalytic converter so it can be traced back to you if stolen.
- Paint your catalytic converter to deter buyers – some local police departments even offer free programs for painting. A vibrant, high-temperature paint indicates to a metal scraper (and the police) that the part was stolen. See example at: <https://www.blainemn.gov/3333/Catalytic-Converter-Theft-Prevention>.
- If driving an SUV or truck, park in busy areas and next to smaller cars so it is harder to crawl under your vehicle.
- Ask local law enforcement to visit your facility to discuss what other strategies may be used to prevent theft.

We hope this information is helpful.

Stay focused, stay safe,

Adam Wilberding, *Director of Loss Control Services*

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