

**Event: Christmas and New Year Holiday Awareness****Date: December 16, 2015****Location: Global**

**Description:** The winter holiday shipping season has historically been one of the most dangerous times for cargo theft. This year, both Christmas Day and New Year's Day occur on a Friday, creating two separate three-day weekends, leaving more opportunity for shipments to be left unattended or parked in unsecured locations for extended periods of time. In addition to the usual spike in *Theft of Full Truckload* and *Pilferage* during the holidays, it is not uncommon to see a spike in *Facility Theft* as well. Facilities dense with merchandise waiting for empty shelves that will follow hectic holiday sales, provide rich targets for cargo thieves. Moreover, these facilities tend to have fewer personnel over the extended holiday period.

**Recommendation:** FreightWatch International (FWI) recommends logistics and security professionals confirm holiday hours of operation with shipping partners to mitigate any unforeseen shipping delays. FWI also advises the review of security protocols to ensure policies are up to date and in line with industry best practices for both in-transit and warehouse operations; both will be heavily targeted over this holiday period. Covert GPS tracking with an active monitoring program is vital to mitigate threats, and is an invaluable asset to the recovery process in the event of a theft.

Notable Thefts from Previous Winter Holiday Weekends:

2015 – *Facility Theft* of \$300K of *Electronics* on New Year's Day in Texas

2014 – *Fictitious Pickup* of \$1M of *Apparel* in New Jersey

2013 – *Full Truckload* theft of \$285K of *ATVs & Seacraft* in Texas

2013 – *Facility Theft* of \$100K of *Apparel* in Florida

2012 – *Last-Mile Courier* theft of \$127K of *Pharmaceuticals* in Oklahoma

2012 – *Full Truckload* theft of \$1.1M of *Electronics* in California

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