Transportation industry professionals will agree that the holidays provide a well-known opportunity for cargo theft. What isn’t always known is how well your 3PL is protecting your shipments, and what resources are available when crime occurs. Sunset takes your product’s integrity and safety very seriously, partnering with the best in the business to provide our shippers with a multi-layered approach to deter, track, and recover their cargo through an extensive theft prevention network called CargoNet.

The following case study takes a detailed look at how one of Sunset’s customers, a nationally known and highly established consumer product distributor, found themselves in the middle of a theft trifecta of commodity, location, and a 4th of July holiday weekend shipment that ended with the full recovery with the help of CargoNet’s national theft task force.

Did you know?

Commodity: Household goods are the second highest targeted commodities for theft across the U.S., along with food & beverage consumables and electronics. And 71% of all theft occurs in California, Texas, New Jersey, Florida, and Georgia.

Location type:
- Truck stops
- Distribution centers
- Parking lots
Account for over 50% of theft sites...

Holiday weekends: Historically, the Independence Day holiday period has shown cargo is exceptionally vulnerable to theft because of reduced security or, in some cases, no security at all. 34 thefts were reported between July 2 and July 9 in 2015, and in 2014, 26 thefts were reported for the same period.

Theft And Recovery Timeline

While businesses must take even more preventative measures than ever before to reduce the chance of theft, preparing a course of action to take in the event of a theft is just as critical. The timeline below provides a summary account of the Independence Day holiday theft in southern Texas, taking place over the course of four days.

6:30pm, July 3
Sunset receives alert of missing tractor trailer last seen in Rosenberg, Texas, carrying 40 pallets of personal care items to a big box retail store for a Sunset customer.

7:00pm, July 3
Sunset’s cargo theft protocol is initiated: CargoNet and local police authorities are notified immediately.

9:37pm, July 3
CargoNet notifies the carrier’s insurance company, an insurance detective is assigned and theft alert released.

1:26pm, July 7
CargoNet locates truck 30 miles away from last reported location via in-dash GPS on stolen vehicle. GPS location was given to police authorities to track the truck.

1:47pm, July 7
Truck, trailer, and cargo is recovered 52 miles away from where it was reported missing. Convictions pending.

8:00am, July 4
Sunset Customer is notified of missing cargo.
Case Study: **Cargo Theft Recovery**  
**Industry:** Consumer & Retail Products

Sunset Transportation is committed to mitigation and recovery of cargo theft. Smart shippers want bigger solutions and agile reactions when unfortunate things happen on the road...attributes Sunset is able to provide through a cautious and controlled approach to safeguarding cargo.

“Recovering this load took some good luck, timing, and persistence. It was a very desirable load and without quick action, it would have likely not been recovered.”

- Ralph Pepe, Sr. Analyst, CargoNet

The tractor and trailer were released back to the customer following claim documentation and inspections in the following weeks. The cargo, valued at approximately $35,000, was untouched aside from one small box being opened. Houston Police worked in collaboration with the Sunset team once the load was recovered with a conviction of the perpetrators pending.

“CargoNet provides our customers additional value when it matters most – they are more protected and confident in Sunset’s abilities knowing we have an actionable plan when theft occurs.”

- Chad Herreman, Director of Operations, Sunset Transportation

**About Sunset Transportation:**  
Founded in 1989, Sunset Transportation is a leader in third party logistics (3PL), shipper technology, and freight audit and payment services. Our approach is simple: we create customized shipping solutions for your business in measurable ways. Our customers’ expectations are met with personalized service, knowledge, agility and responsiveness. *The Right Size 3PL. Promises. Delivered.*

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To learn more about how Sunset specializes in the retail and consumer products supply chain, visit [www.SunsetTrans.com/Consumer-and-Retail-Products](http://www.SunsetTrans.com/Consumer-and-Retail-Products) and request a customized quote!

To report a cargo theft, contact your Sunset representative or call CargoNet directly at **1-888-595-CNET (2638)**.