

# HOW PROPERTY CRIME IS THREATENING THE VEHICLE LOGISTICS INDUSTRY

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**A**cross the country, commercial property crime is on the rise, and vehicle logistics operations are typically the most impacted. Organized crime groups and opportunistic thieves are targeting storage yards, transport lots, and transfer points, with violations ranging from catalytic converter thefts and stripped parts to complete vehicle losses.

According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, the vehicle theft **rate increased significantly (42%) from 2019 to 2023**, rising from 199.4 to 283.5 incidents per 100,000 people (*FBI, 2024*).

**Because in this business, protecting what moves means protecting where it's stored at every point along the supply chain.**

These breaches cause risks that hit hard where it counts: operational downtime, insurance claims, safety concerns, and lost trust. For fleet managers and operations leaders, it's no longer a matter of if a facility will be targeted, but when, how often, and how prepared the response will be.

The challenge? These crimes happen fast. They're often coordinated, and they happen in places where people assume there's already security in place. This proves that existing industry standards for security like locks, cameras, and occasional patrols are no longer enough.

In this practical guide for vehicle logistics leaders, we help you:

- Understand where vulnerabilities occur
- What solutions can reduce crime,
- How industry leaders are responding with a smarter approach to security.

## TWO COMPANIES WITH ONE SHARED GOAL: ELIMINATING VEHICLE LOGISTICS CRIMES



### RETHINKING PERIMETER PROTECTION

Unlike traditional fencing or passive camera systems, electric fencing provides an active layer of proven defense. With systems designed to detect, deter, and delay intrusions in real time, AMAROK stops trespassers before theft or damage occurs.



### MANAGING THE MOVEMENT OF VEHICLES AT SCALE

A full-service logistics provider specializing in end-to-end vehicle transport and storage, ACERTUS operates dozens of strategically located facilities across the U.S. and handles everything from logistics to secure storage and delivery.



# WHAT'S AT STAKE IN VEHICLE LOGISTICS?

Every day, thousands of vehicles move through a complex logistics network, transported from OEM (original equipment manufacturer) factories to dealers or auctions to buyers, and eventually to end customers. It's a system built on tight timelines, coordination, and trust.

Additionally, between manufacturing and end use, vehicles spend a significant amount of time at rest — parked in ports, rail yards, vehicle processing centers (VPCs), and dealers, waiting for their next handoff.

And that's where risk enters the picture.

These storage locations often house hundreds or even thousands of high-value vehicles, including new models, specialty builds, EVs, and commercial fleets. With every idle hour, they become a prime opportunity for damage or theft. High-value vehicles are often stored in poorly lit or inconsistently patrolled lots, and many assume that a fence and a few cameras will suffice — until an incident proves otherwise.

For operators tasked with protecting these sites, the stakes are high. One overnight breach can mean insurance claims, missed deliveries, damaged customer relationships, and long-term erosion of trust.

## RISING THREATS IN PROPERTY THEFT

Property crimes continue to challenge the vehicle logistics industry, and while national crime trends fluctuate, logistics yards and transit operations remain frequent targets.

*Between 2019 and 2023, the vehicle theft rate increased significantly, rising from 199.4 to 283.5 incidents per 100,000 people (FBI Crime Reporting Program, Motor Vehicle Theft, 2019–2023).*

Across the country, businesses are reporting a rise in:

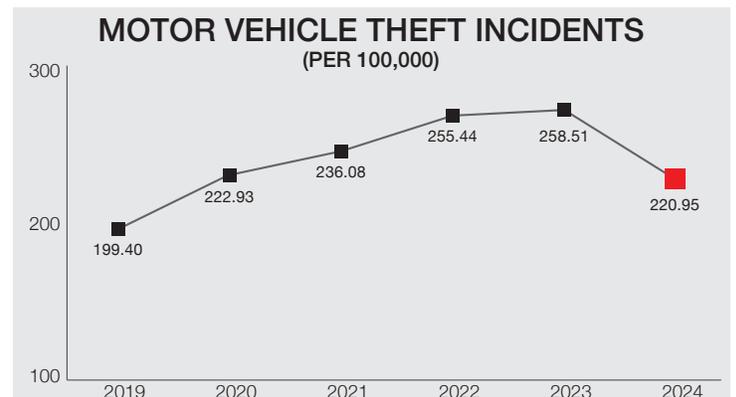
- Fraudulent vehicle pickups using fake credentials or cloned paperwork
- After-hours yard break-ins, often coordinated to target multiple vehicles
- Theft of high-value parts like catalytic converters, wheels, and electronics, which can be removed in minutes.

These are not isolated events, but rather indicators of a larger trend involving organized theft groups that target vulnerabilities in the supply chain, especially during periods of low supervision or downtime. The good news? In areas where businesses have invested in smarter deterrents,

incidents are starting to decline, meaning technology is changing the landscape.

*According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), the U.S. reported a record 1,020,729 vehicles stolen in 2023; however, **that number declined by 16.6% in 2024 due to the introduction of new anti-theft technology.***

**But the threat still remains. It's time to shift the approach, because facilities without updated security systems are now easier for criminals to identify.**



# THE REAL COST OF INACTION

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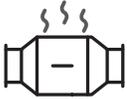
When property crime hits a vehicle logistics site, the damage extends far beyond the fence line.

## THIS IS WHAT'S TRULY AT STAKE:



### STOLEN OR DAMAGED VEHICLES

Each theft or stripping incident can cost tens (or hundreds) of thousands in lost value, especially for new fleet models, EVs, and high-demand work trucks.



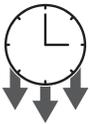
### PARTS THEFT THAT DISABLES VEHICLES

Targeted parts like catalytic converters leave vehicles inoperable and rack up repair costs, disrupting entire delivery schedules.



### DELAYED DELIVERIES

Every stolen or vandalized unit delays its final handoff, creating bottlenecks in dealership timelines, fleet rollouts, and auction pipelines.



### OPERATIONAL DOWNTIME

Crime scenes often result in yard closures, repair delays, and investigations that disrupt business for hours or days.



### LOSS OF CUSTOMER TRUST

One security breach can shake confidence, especially in B2B relationships where reliability and accountability are non-negotiable.



### RISING INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Repeated claims can trigger higher premiums, stricter policy conditions, or even denial of coverage if physical security measures are outdated.



### STAFF SAFETY & MORALE CONCERNS

Yard staff and transport drivers may be exposed to real physical risk, especially during after-hours incidents or attempted confrontations.



### LIABILITY FOR CUSTOMER ASSETS

Many operators are storing vehicles they don't own, which puts them at financial and legal risk when theft or damage occurs.



# ACERTUS: SECURING THE VEHICLE LOGISTICS CHAIN

In an industry where exposure to theft and fraud can occur at any stage of transport, ACERTUS provides oversight, accountability, and protection from pickup to delivery.

With a non-asset model and a tech-integrated platform, ACERTUS manages the secure transfer of thousands of vehicles across North America each year. From the moment a job is created to the final handoff, their systems and protocols are designed to close gaps and reduce risk.

## END-TO-END SECURITY FOR PEACE OF MIND

### Pickup: Vetted from the Start

Every shipment begins with Safer Ship, ACERTUS's nightly FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration) digital compliance monitoring system. Only carriers that are fully credentialed, insured, and performance-tracked stay active in the network, which automatically removes anyone whose status lapses or is flagged.

### Identity-Proofed Handoffs

At both pickup and delivery, drivers use ACERTUS's ePOD (electronic proof of delivery) app, which enforces multi-step identity checks, timestamped signatures and photos, and vehicle condition reports. These digital safeguards flag fraudulent attempts before the vehicle can leave the lot.

### Real-Time Visibility in Transit

Vehicles are tracked live through a GPS-enabled Transportation Management System (TMS), providing clients and ACERTUS operators with real-time statuses on location, stops, and incident alerts. Deviations trigger automated notifications, enabling a rapid response before a problem escalates.

### Secure Storage and Delivery

At any of ACERTUS's 55+ secure hubs, vehicles may be staged, reconditioned, or titled. These locations follow the same digital handoff and condition-verification procedures as in transit, preserving the chain of custody at every touchpoint.

## THE BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP: RISK MANAGEMENT & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

ACERTUS brings a proactive, data-informed approach to risk by continuously refining its integrated logistics systems to close security gaps, reduce exposure, and adapt to evolving threats.

For fleets, OEMs, auctions, and dealers, ACERTUS offers reliable transport services, and a secure logistics environment designed to minimize fraud, loss, and liability.



# AMAROK: PERIMETER PROTECTION AT STORAGE SITES

Even with the most disciplined logistics controls, vehicle lots and staging areas remain vulnerable to one persistent threat: physical intrusion. That's where AMAROK steps in.

AMAROK specializes in fully managed perimeter security systems designed for at-risk commercial sites, including vehicle logistics yards, overflow lots, auction sites, and fleet storage. Their solutions are designed to prevent crime before it occurs.

## AROUND-THE-CLOCK ON-SITE PROTECTION

### ■ **Active Deterrence: The Electric Guard Dog™ Fence**

AMAROK's electric fencing system serves as a visual deterrent at 10-feet tall with clear warning signage and a shock deterrent delivering a 7000-volt medically-safe pulsated shock preventing intruders from breaching the perimeter. The fence also provides full perimeter visibility as it is equipped with alarm triggers.

### ■ **Eyes on Every Zone with Camera Surveillance**

24/7 monitored camera systems can detect motion, track suspicious activity using video analytics, and provide operators with real-time access to footage via the cloud. Cameras verify fence alarms and provide visual confirmation to dispatch authorities, which in turn shortens response times and aids in investigations.

### ■ **Solar-Powered Defense and Alarms**

AMAROK's electric fencing systems are solar-powered for reliable, low-maintenance operation, even in storms or power outages. Any contact with the fence instantly

triggers a loud siren and ultra-bright LED lights, creating a high-impact deterrent designed to stop intruders in their tracks and draw immediate attention to any breach attempt.

### ■ **Proven Results in High-Risk Environments**

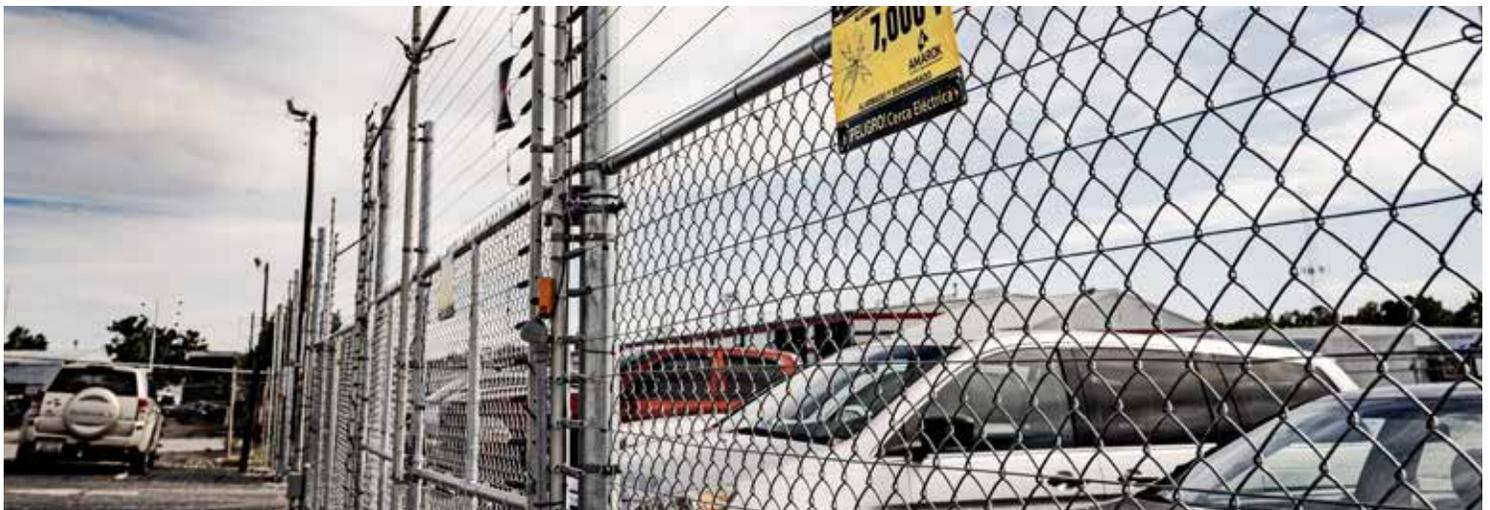
99% of customers experience no external theft after installation on sites protected by AMAROK, including lots previously targeted by repeat offenses. This approach closes the physical security gap left by passive systems or part-time patrols.

Understanding the real vulnerabilities in this environment is the first step toward building a stronger defense. Because if it's sitting still, it's at risk. AMAROK's expertise provides security for your site and peace of mind for you.

## COMPLEMENTING PROCESS WITH PROTECTION

While ACERTUS excels in controlling who is responsible for a vehicle and when, AMAROK ensures that only authorized individuals can physically access the assets.

In an industry where downtime, theft, and damaged trust carry real financial consequences, combining operational oversight with physical deterrence creates a complete, proactive defense for vehicle logistics and storage.



# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING RISK

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As threats to vehicle logistics sites grow more targeted and complex, industry leaders need more than reactive solutions. The strongest defense is built on awareness, consistency, and smart partnerships. How can you proactively improve site and asset security?

## VEHICLE SECURITY BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST

- **Conduct Regular Security Audits**  
Evaluate your physical sites, transit handoffs, and digital protocols for potential vulnerabilities.
- **Vet Every Vendor and Driver**  
Utilize automated compliance monitoring to ensure up-to-date credentials and a current performance history.
- **Add Proactive Physical Deterrents**  
Install electric fencing, alarmed perimeters, and monitored surveillance to stop intrusions before they escalate.

- **Train Staff on Fraud Tactics and Threat Detection**  
Equip teams with the knowledge to spot forged documents, suspicious activity, and social engineering attempts.
- **Evaluate Transit and On-Site Security**  
Security doesn't begin or end at the gate; it spans the entire journey from first pickup to final delivery, and every moment a vehicle is stationary

Leaders should regularly review both logistics controls and yard protection strategies to ensure nothing falls through the cracks.

The most effective way to reduce exposure is to partner with experts who specialize in these risks, allowing your internal teams to focus on transporting and storing vehicles rather than managing crises.

# STAY AHEAD OF RISK WITH PREVENTION, NOT REACTION

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The landscape of property crime is constantly evolving. As criminal tactics become more coordinated and opportunistic, logistics and yard operators can no longer rely on outdated defenses or isolated protocols.

## Staying ahead means staying proactive.

That starts with recognizing that no single team can manage ongoing risks alone. The strongest defense comes from a partnership that combines logistics providers who manage processes with precision,

working together with security experts who protect physical assets on the ground.

The companies that lead will be those who see security as a shared responsibility — developing smarter systems, exchanging insights, and addressing gaps throughout the entire supply chain.

**In an industry built on trust, reputation, and uptime, protecting what moves involves protecting it at every stage — and working together to make it happen.**



# LET'S GET STARTED

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AMAROK provides high-impact, fully managed Electric fencing and surveillance systems that stop intrusions before they happen and protect high-value assets on the ground.

**Request a free Property Risk Assessment to identify vulnerabilities and secure your perimeter.**

AMAROK's Free Threat Assessment helps you evaluate your business or commercial site to identify vulnerabilities. With theft and vandalism on the rise, we can transform your property's perimeter from an easy target into an effective deterrent.

- Identify any potential vulnerabilities on your property
- We analyze local crime data to assess your level of risk
- We develop a proactive approach to preventing and deterring theft

**ASSESSING RISK FOR MULTIPLE SITES?  
ASK US ABOUT OUR MULTI-SITE RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT!**



**AMAROK.com**  
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ACERTUS delivers end-to-end vehicle logistics with real-time visibility, secure handoffs, and data-driven controls that reduce risk at every stage of the journey.

**Contact ACERTUS to learn how their logistics solutions can strengthen your operations.**



**ACERTUSdelivers.com**  
855-223-7887

