ALWAYS AWAKE.
ALWAYS ON GUARD.



LotGuard

Top 10 Commercial Property Hotspots for Copper Theft Risk

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The Department of Energy (DOE) estimates copper theft costs US businesses about $1 billion each year, with insurance claims up 26% year over year. What's worse, that figure doesn't account for emergency repairs, project delays, insurance spikes, and operational downtime that pile up after each incident.

26%

These crimes aren't random. They're highly coordinated criminal operations aimed at high-value commercial sites where security gaps or easy access make removal fast and low-risk. Organized crime groups (OCGs) actively look for predictable factors (isolated locations, poor security measures) that make a property an easy target.

Property managers know copper theft is a risk, but many aren't sure which commercial properties are most frequently targeted or how to prevent metal theft before copper thieves strike.



Top 10 Commercial Property Hotspots for Copper Theft in the US



Active Construction Sites:

Construction sites in the US are major targets for metal theft, with over $1 billion in copper stolen each year due to exposed materials, open perimeters, and minimal after-hours security that organised crime groups exploit.



Vacant Commercial Buildings:

Vacant commercial units and underused lots, lacking surveillance, attract trespassers, dumping and metal theft, especially at night when exposed HVAC systems and copper become easy targets.



Vacant and Transitional Retail Units:

Empty retail stores and surrounding lots lack oversight, attracting trespassers, dumping and theft. Without deterrents, exposed HVAC and copper become easy targets, especially during low-traffic nighttime.

Top 10 Commercial Property Hotspots for Copper Theft in the US



Industrial and Manufacturing Facilities:

Industrial sites with extensive copper and multiple access points face theft risks, especially at night, when unmonitored areas and quick highway access make exposed materials easy targets for criminals.



Utility-Dense Buildings & Infrastructure Sabotage:

Utility centres face rising copper theft, with major outages in cities like Los Angeles. Nighttime gaps and easy access make critical infrastructure vulnerable, creating costly risks for property managers.



Healthcare and Medical Facilities:

Hospitals operate constantly with many access points, making oversight difficult. Essential electrical systems and copper attract thieves, and theft can disrupt patient care and create risks.

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Foreclosed / Abandoned Properties:

Foreclosed or abandoned properties left unattended become known targets, with thieves repeatedly stripping copper and causing costly structural damage, especially when sites are remote and lack regular activity.



Logistic and Distribution Hubs:

Cargo theft is rising, driven by high copper values. Large logistics sites with multiple access points, low nighttime activity and limited surveillance create ideal conditions for organised groups targeting valuable materials.



Educational Campuses and Schools:

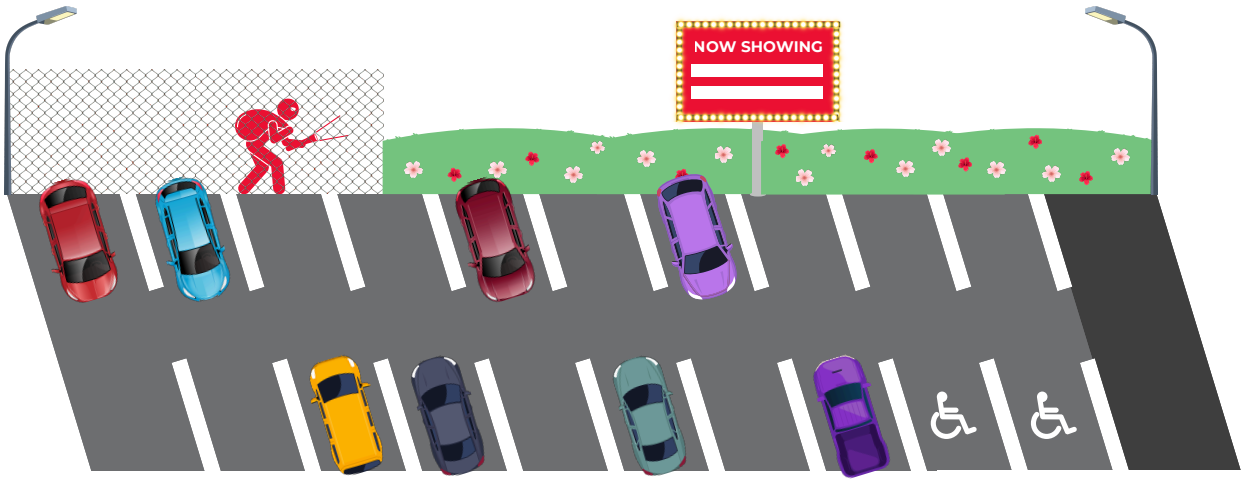
Schools and campuses have many buildings and access points, making oversight difficult. Quiet periods give thieves opportunities, and theft across large sites creates costly disruptions during term time.

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Parking and Surface Lots:

Parking lots contain valuable infrastructure and are vulnerable when near vacant sites. Without monitoring or after-hours security, they become easy access routes for thieves entering neighbouring properties.



Whether you manage a construction site, vacant property portfolio, or parking lot, copper theft is prevalent across the US and costing businesses thousands of dollars. Hence the need to transition your security from reactive to proactive, to help prevent theft in the first place rather than working to recover from it.

Preventing Copper Theft with Rapid Deployment Surveillance

Understanding which property types are most at risk is the first step. The next step is making sure your sites don't send the signals that put them on a theft network's list. Copper theft prevention in commercial buildings comes down to choosing surveillance that's visible and fast to deploy.

Here are a few of LotGuard's rapid deployment parking lot surveillance solutions that recognize suspicious activity the minute it unfolds:



LotGuard Pro

Ideal for large lots and expansive facilities. Solar-powered trailer with multiple cameras, bright deterrent lighting, and full AI monitoring.

Fully-Managed.
100% Autonomous.
Always On.



LotGuard Mini

Compact, relocatable unit perfect for smaller facilities or hard-to-cover spots on your property. Same AI technology in a smaller footprint.

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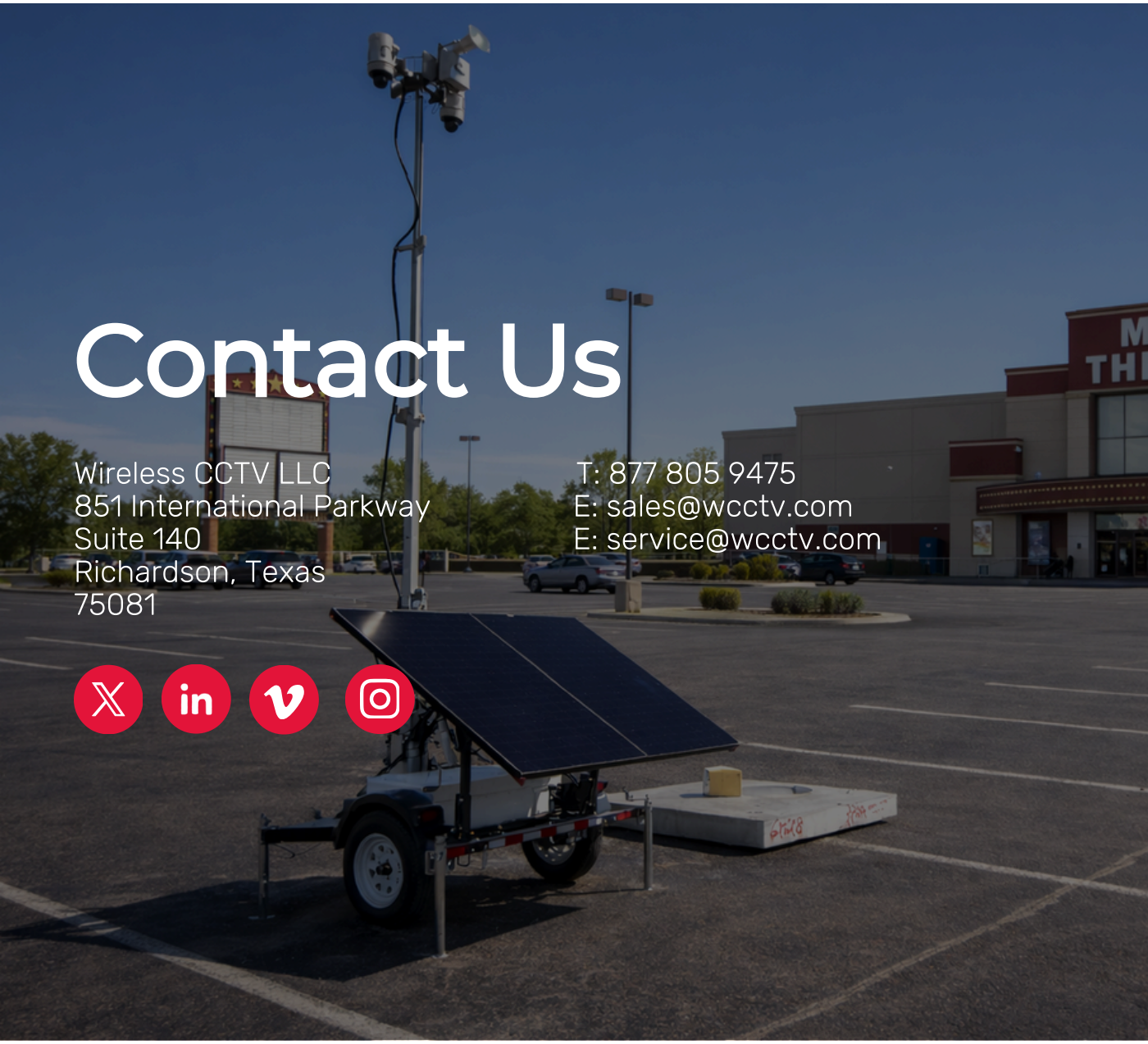
LPR Cameras

Add-on license plate recognition units use high-quality cameras and onboard analytics to identify and log vehicles entering or leaving your property (including make, model, and color).

Cloud Platform

Our cloud-based platform that can enhance your LotGuard system, unifying cameras, AI detection, and LPR data into one secure interface that delivers real-time site activity on any device.

Whether you're managing commercial properties, residential communities, or vacant lots, LotGuard's surveillance solutions are built to detect, deter, and defend against criminal activity.



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