PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

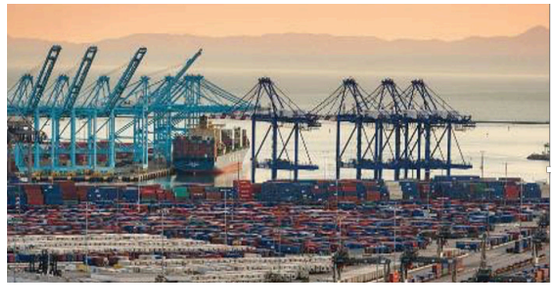
- Increase arrest, prosecution and conviction of cargo thieves and their receivers. Establish a close working relationship with the cargo, transportation, warehousing, and insurance industries
- Recover and return stolen cargo to the owners
- Reduce cargo theft property crimes
- Develop intelligence information about the stolen cargo redistribution system
- Act as a resource for cargo theft prevention information
- Establish a statistical reporting system to accurately reflect the cargo theft problem
- Enhance coordination and cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, as well as that between prosecutors, law enforcement, and victims
- Investigate fraud pickups, also known as fictitious pickups, involving complex identity theft and fraud to seal cargo



ABOUT US

In January 1990, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department launched an innovative cargo theft investigative unit known as the Cargo Criminal Apprehension Team (Cargo CATs). This specialized team operates within the Department's Major Crimes Bureau and is dedicated to targeting and apprehending high-profile cargo criminals.

The pro-active team approach the Sheriff's Department has taken in the past, to impact the transient career criminal, is the same approach that is now being applied to the ever-increasing cargo theft problem throughout Los Angeles County and Southern California. The success demonstrated by Cargo CATs is proof of our proficiency in the field.



CONTACT

Major Crimes Bureau
Cargo CATs
Voicemail: (562) 347-1261
Fax: (323) 415-4541
E-mail: mcbcargocats@lasd.org
Web: LASD.org/CargoTheft/

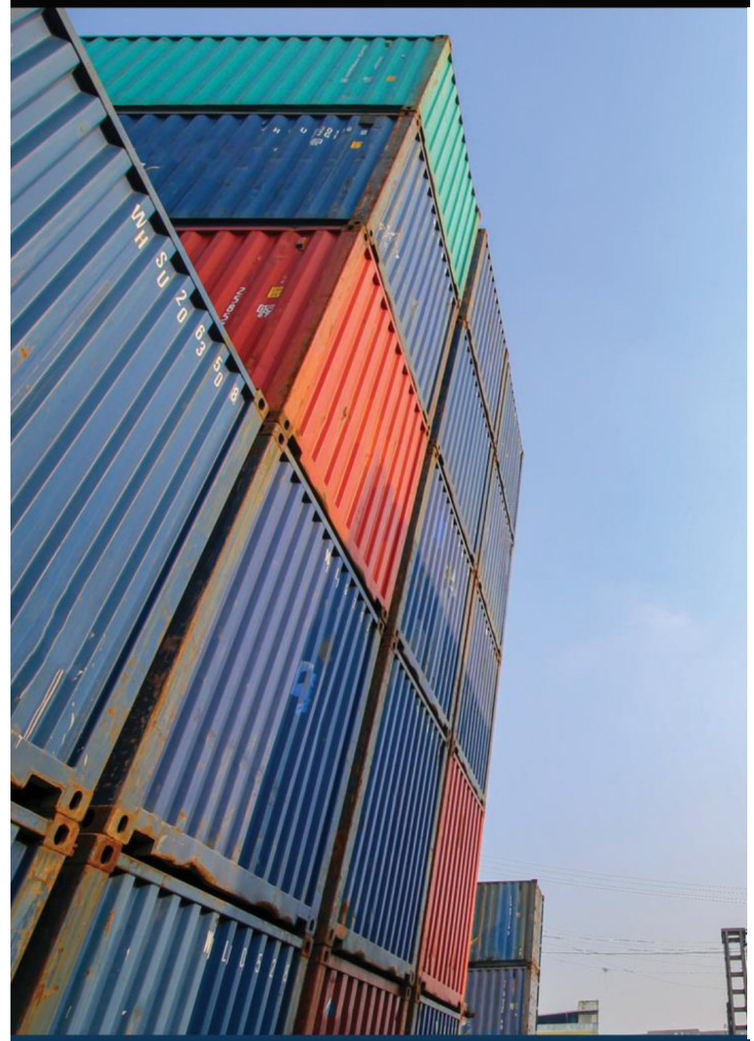
Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

SIB 09/2024

Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

CARGO THEFT

CARGO CRIMINAL APPREHENSION TEAM



LASD.ORG/CARGOTHEFT/

REPORTING CARGO THEFT

For Emergencies, call 911.

First, report cargo thefts to the local law enforcement agency, which has jurisdiction over the investigation. This usually involves contacting the local Police or Sheriff's Station and reporting the theft. From there, a Police Officer or Deputy Sheriff will make a report and an investigator will be assigned the case.

Note: Many police agencies will not take reports over the phone. If the broker was defrauded, the broker may have the warehouse workers make the police report in person as they too are victims in the fraud/fictitious-pick up.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department – Cargo CATs section, is one of the two major cargo investigative units in the Los Angeles County area. The other, being The Los Angeles Police Department – Commercial Crimes Division, which investigates cargo thefts within the City of Los Angeles – https://www.lapdonline.org/office-of-the-chief-of-police/office-of-special-operations/detective-bureau/detective-services-group/commercial-crimes-division/.

The California Highway Patrol - Cargo Theft Interdiction Program (CTIP), is a statewide investigative unit which investigates cargo thefts throughout California – https://www.chp.ca.gov/notify-chp/cargo-theft-interdiction-program/.

To report a cargo theft within a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department patrol area, contact the local sheriff's patrol station – https://lasd.org/stations/.

If the crime occurred outside of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department patrol area, but the cargo is currently in our patrol area, immediately notify the local sheriff's patrol station of the situation.

Follow this with the submission of a Loss Form.

Remember to supply the name and up-to-date contact information for your representative. This person will be the liaison between law enforcement and your company in the event your property and/or vehicles are recovered.



LOSS FORM

The Cargo CATs "Loss Form" is used as a statistical, informational and investigative tool. The information provided on the "Loss Form" is shared with both CargoNet and CTIP. This information is used by the Cargo CATs detail, other Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department investigative units, and distributed to Law Enforcement agencies throughout the country. When filling out the form, please be accurate and complete. The information supplied will aid in the recovery of your property. This information is considered confidential and for law enforcement use only.

Submission of the Loss Form is not a substitute for reporting the crime to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.

Once a case is assigned to a Cargo CATs Detective, they will contact you and send a "Loss Form." You may use the PDF format which opens a new browser window. Simply print the PDF form and fax it to us at (323) 415-4541, or you can send it to us via email at **mcbcargocats@lasd.org**.

For more information, visit please visit our website at **LASD.org/CargoTheft/**.

