



On the Alert!

Date: March 15, 2024
Attention: ASCIP Members
Affected: Administrators, Legal, Risk Management, Faculty & Staff
Applicability: K-12, Charter Schools, Community Colleges

PROTECTING FLEET FROM CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

Catalytic converter theft has drastically increased in California, especially among larger vehicles. Precious metals taken from catalytic parts such as platinum, palladium and rhodium are valuable and can be sold easily – making school buses, white fleet (service vehicles) and staff’s personal vehicles a target.



Repairs can cost districts several thousands of dollars, depending on the number of converters stolen. As catalytic converter theft continues to trend for school bus fleets, it’s a good time to review the district’s bus security systems and inform transportation staff.

The lack of traceable and identifiable marks makes these thefts difficult to curb, therefore, it is important to counter by taking proactive measures:

- 1. Park Strategically and in Secure Areas**
If possible, park your vehicles in well-lit, secure parking facilities with surveillance cameras and security guards. Park your vehicles such that the catalytic converters are difficult to access.
For example, parking close to walls or close to other vehicles can make it harder to slide underneath and remove converters quickly.
- 2. Etch or Mark Your Converters**
Etching or marking catalytic converters with unique identifiers, such as VINs (Vehicle Identification Numbers), license plate numbers, or other unique identifiers, can make them less attractive to thieves and is economical. Markings also help law enforcement identify stolen converters.
- 3. Install Vehicle Security Devices**
Consider installing aftermarket security devices designed to deter catalytic converter theft. The devices may include locks, converter cages, or clamps that make it difficult to remove the converter.
- 4. Be Vigilant**
Promptly report any suspicious activity to law enforcement and the Risk Management Department. Risk Management will then reach out to ASCIP Risk Services consultant for coverage considerations.

If you need additional support with assessing your risk or would like to learn more about the options for protecting your vehicles from catalytic convertor loss, please contact the Risk Management Department. risk_management@cjsd.net