

NIBRS Coding Scenarios

Theft from Trailer

Issue: A contractor had his pickup truck with an attached enclosed trailer parked in front of the local hardware store. The trailer was unlocked and contained his tools. When he drove to his next work site, he noticed most of his tools were missing. Would this theft be coded as “23H-All Other Larceny” or “23F-Theft from Motor Vehicle”?

When a trailer is attached to a vehicle, it becomes a part of the vehicle. In this case, the incident would be coded as “23F-Theft from Motor Vehicle”. The location code would be “24-Speciality Store” (it more adequately reflects where the theft occurred rather than just “Highway/Road/Alley” although “Highway/Road/Alley” would not be incorrect). The Property Description would be “36-Tools”. The value would be the price to replace the tools. The Victim Type would be “B-Business”.

Issue: A group of bikers were towing an enclosed trailer containing four motorcycles to the Sturgis Bike Rally. They parked in the back parking lot of a truck stop so they could go in and eat dinner. When they came out, the motorcycles were stolen. How would this be coded?

Motor vehicles stolen, no matter if they are inside a trailer or not, would be “240-Motor Vehicle Theft”. This would be one incident. The Type of Property would be “24-Other Motor Vehicles” and “4” would be encoded in the “Number of Stolen Motor Vehicles” field. Each owner of the motorcycles would be listed in the Victim Segment. The Location Type would be “21-Restaurant” (it more adequately reflects where the theft occurred rather than just “Parking Lot” although “Parking Lot” would not be incorrect).

Issue: A trailer used as a temporary office and store house was parked on-site at a construction project was broken into and all the tools stored inside were stolen along with two laptop computers. How would this be coded?

This would be coded as “220-Burglary/B&E”. This would meet all three required elements of a Burglary/B&E (unlawful entry, structure, and intent to commit a felony or theft). The Location Type would be “06-Construction Site”. The Property Description would be “07-Computer Hardware/Software” and “36-Tools”. The Victim Segment would include the Business and may have individuals listed if any employees owned their own tools that were stolen.

Reference: Volume 1: Data Collection Guidelines (blue cover), Offense Definitions pages 22-37; Location Type page 77; Property Description pages 83-85; Number of Stolen Motor Vehicles page 87; and Type of Victim page 91.



Note that the preceding gives general examples. It is not meant to be all inclusive. Coding is based on individual case circumstances. Please direct NIBRS questions to:

Brenda Manning
Criminal Statistical Analysis Center
605-773-6312 or brenda.manning@state.sd.us