

RURAL CRIME PROGRAM

Operation ID is a program being adopted by the California Sheriff's Association, the California Highway Patrol, Far West Equipment Dealers Association, and California Farm Bureau.

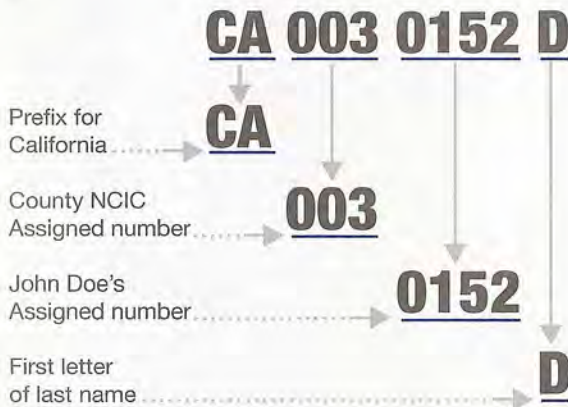
Due to widespread concern for the increased number of rural thefts, a program has been initiated in our state for the identification of farm machinery, equipment, and even household goods.

The FBI has established a system whereby each state and county is assigned a number which is recorded in the NCIC (National Crime Information Center). A directory containing these numbers is available to each law enforcement agency for use in identifying the various states and counties.

The county sheriff's department within the state will issue the remaining portion of the number to each individual. With this system the state and county can be located, and by contacting the local sheriff's department within the county the individual can be identified within minutes. These numbers will be issued and maintained by your local county sheriff's department as part of their active records.

This system is devised to readily permit cooperation with law enforcement officials of other states by use of interstate computerized law enforcement communications system.

The ID number is composed of ten characters. For example, the number of John A. Doe of Brentwood, California might be:



This information enables the law enforcement agencies to pinpoint ID numbers within any state and county in the United States, whether stolen equipment is found across the country or within the same state.

WHERE TO MARK YOUR TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

One of the essential points of this program is uniformity of marking your property. This guide has been prepared to show locations of numbers. This location should be the right side as you are standing behind the equipment. It is noted in some figures to mark 12 inches from a certain point. This should be considered to be approximate.

On all equipment with non-removable tongues; manure spreaders, grain drills, auger wagons, etc.; place ID number on right side on top of tongue, 12" to rear of hitch pin.

On 3-point equipment with tool bar, place ID number on top of tool bar adjacent to right hitch pin.

We recommend in addition to the one suggested location, that you mark your equipment in another location known only to you. If ID numbers are removed or destroyed, the numbers on other locations can still positively identify property.

TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT OWNERSHIP

We suggest that the seller of equipment notify the new owner that the equipment has been marked. The new owner should then locate his number below the previous owner's number, so that the equipment can be traced from one owner to another. **DO NOT ALTER OR DEFACE THE PREVIOUS OWNER'S NUMBER.**

INVENTORY RECORD OF YOUR MARKING SYSTEM

One of the problems heard from most law enforcement officials is the lack of information available after the property is stolen.

To make a program successful, it is essential that full cooperation with law enforcement officials be obtained in marking equipment for easy identification. Accurate records of inventory will make identification of stolen property easier and also easier to provide information to law enforcement officials when thefts occur.

Even after the thief has stolen the property and has made no effort to remove the serial and model number plates or identification, the property owner could not identify the items as he had not kept accurate records of his property. An inventory sheet is provided in this pamphlet.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Further use of this program can be made by applying your ID number to household goods, C.B. radios, tape player, guns, power tools, etc.

This ID system is also being implemented in some states for the identification of grain. Small tabs of paper, each bearing the individuals registered number, are mixed with the grain as it is being augured into the bin.

PREVENTION

More important is the prevention of the crime. Steps can be taken to deter the criminal before the theft has taken place. It has been proven that thieves are hesitant to take items that can be readily identified. Placing signs, decals, and other visible information warning potential thieves that this equipment has been marked and registered with the local law enforcement officials may help prevent a possible theft.

OTHER TIPS FOR THEFT AND PREVENTION

Maintain an inventory list of equipment, complete with engine numbers, make and model, year, color, capacity or any other information that will help identify lost items.

When possible, bring major equipment in from the fields each night and lock in a barn or shed.

If equipment must be left in a field overnight, put it where it can be seen from your house or park it near a neighbor's house.

Keep equipment away from roads where it is vulnerable to theft and vandalism.

Keep boats, snowmobiles, bikes, ATV's and other small equipment locked in a building or secured to a stationary object with case-hardened chains and padlocks.

If motorized equipment must be left outside or idle for long periods, remove the rotor, distributor cap or battery to prevent theft.

Do not leave tools and other equipment in the back of a pickup truck. Lock toolboxes.

Keep storage areas neat and well organized to keep track of equipment and discourage potential thieves.

Lock up chemicals; if stolen, they can be resold.

Request that chemicals be delivered on the day needed and not before.

Install audible alarms on outbuildings to prevent illegal entry.