

# Toolbox Talk #4.4 – Protecting Towable Equipment



## Farm mobility assets, always moving and always at risk.

### Outline

Horseboxes, trailers, bowzers, and portable generators serve as essential logistical assets for operational farms. These units facilitate the transportation of livestock, feed, equipment, water, fuel, and power to ensure safe and efficient farm activities. However, due to their mobility, ease of attachment, and frequently located in unsecured areas, they are commonly targeted by criminals and are among the farm assets most susceptible to theft.

Rural crime is vehicle enabled, and the criminal will use your trailer to increase their lift capacity; they will take your water bowser to visit your neighbouring farm to steal their fuel. They will remove your horsebox today to steal sheep tomorrow.

You owe it to yourself and your community to **SafeGuard™** your towable equipment to help reduce the agri-theft and to ensure it is available when you want to use it!

### Why This Matters:

Horseboxes, trailers, and portable bowzers/generators are essential mobile assets on farms, but their portability and the fact they are often left unattended make them attractive targets for thieves. Theft or damage to these assets can result in significant financial loss and replacement costs, disrupt day-to-day farm operations, create safety risks if equipment is misused, and lead to the loss of valuable resources such as water, feed, fuel, or specialist equipment.



### Let's Talk About It:

- Where are our towable load carrying equipment stored when not in use?
- How often do we use locks, chains, or immobilisers and when do we check them?
- Who is responsible for securing these assets at the end of the day?
- Have we noticed any suspicious activity around these assets?
- What practical steps can we take to improve security of our trailers?

## Quick Wins:

- 01 ● Include your towable assets in your equipment register.
- 02 ● Record digital image of your trailer's unique identifying marks, damage, or manufacturer's serial numbers.
- 03 ● Activate the manufacturer's protective security features.
- 04 ● Mark and register your trailer with Micro CESAR ID labels.
- 05 ● Remove tow hitch when left unattended or use a hitch guard or wheel lock/chains.
- 06 ● Tether (via a steel rope or chain) your trailer to a fixed piece of infrastructure — i.e., steel girder, ground anchor, or concrete block .
- 07 ● Uniquely marked detachable parts of the trailer to avoid them being sold separately to the main chassis — i.e., forensic DNA solutions, engraving, or steel punching.
- 08 ● Always lock horseboxes, box trailers, and bowsters and store inside a closed building.
- 09 ● Monitor with cameras or intruder detection sensors that activate motion-sensitive lights.
- 10 ● Display signs highlighting the use of cameras, intruder alarms, and forensic DNA solutions.

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## What does 'good' look like:

- 01 All towable load carrying equipment is garaged, locked down, and monitored.
- 02 Hitch locks, wheel clamps, ground anchors, robust chains, and closed shackle padlocks form multiple layers of defence to deter and delay the criminal.



- 03 The equipment is uniquely marked, registered, and insured.
- 04 A recovery plan is available to coordinate a response that includes notifying the local police and online community forums.



## Disclaimer:

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