

Smash and Grab Invasion Strikes California Motorcycle Dealers *Hard!*

Night after night, as we watch our TV screens in horror as mobs of young thugs break glass doors and windows to gain illegal entry into retail businesses of all types, it never really sinks in, until our dealerships get targeted.

The CMDA regrettably has to report that at least eight of our member dealerships have been broken into in the last month using tactics like the images provided demonstrate.

There have likely been more break-ins that have not been reported to us that we don't know about.

So, *this is to provide a wake-up call* to every dealer who reads this *News Flash* that your store could be next!

Reportedly, perps steal a truck (often, a rental pickup or van), case a likely subject target, then, in the middle of the night, ram the stolen truck back into the glass showroom window, and load as much rolling stock onto the truck bed or into the van, as possible, within a couple of minutes time frame.

An alternative is to somehow force open a rear building service door and steal as much rolling stock and other inventory as possible in a short period of time.

A favorite target are the post 2022 off-road motorcycles that can't be Red Stickered because they don't comply with CARB emission regulations. They end up being sold for non-public land use, or used in illegal street races and exhibitions, and are merely discarded if law enforcement shuts them down.

Others are exported to other states or countries where registration or identification by authorities is lax or non-existent.

The problem is amplified by the fact that if the perps *are* apprehended, many localities, indeed even the state, won't charge them to the fullest extent of the laws that they break!

So, this CMDA public service announcement doesn't have much specific advise, because only each of our members knows which security measures will

work best for their individual location and circumstances.

If it's possible and practical, try to install concrete-filled bollards in front of your showroom windows. You will likely need municipal permit approval for that; maybe not, if you own the parking lot in front of vulnerable windows or doors.

Federated Insurance, the CMDA's Preferred Provider for Garage Liability Insurance, is preparing an official response with recommendations for its insureds

and we hope to be able to share that information with all of our members as soon as it is available.

Meanwhile, here are a few tips in the interim:

- Have a working sophisticated burglar alarm system that covers all accessible openings and that also uses motion sensors. Make sure that it can contact law enforcement agencies for their quick response.

- Harden and reinforce all doors' and windows' entry points

to whatever extent possible.

- Increase non-store hours interior and exterior lighting and install both obvious and hidden cameras.

The visible cameras may deter casual criminals and the hidden ones may catch enough of the crime to apprehend the perps.

- Secure your vulnerable, high value, display rolling stock, after hours, with plastic coated cables and stout padlocks. That ought to, at least, slow 'em down!

- To the extent allowed by current hiring practices law, make sure that potential employees don't have a theft, or burglary rap sheet.

- Make sure that your sales personnel engage every customer as soon as practical, to discourage perps from "casing"

your premises for a future break-in.

The CMDA will continue to update you on this serious turn of events in an increasingly violent world.

