



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

CARGO CATS

Fictitious Pickup (FPU)

What is FPU?

Criminals pose as a legitimate trucking company, bid, and win a load (usually through online brokers), provide falsified documents and credentials to steal cargo directly from shipper.

Tips for Preventing FPU

Situational Awareness

- Subscribe to CargoNet.com for reports of FPU activity in your area, and 24/7 assistance if you experience a loss.

Vetting Procedures

- Use a reliable Broker and ask them what level of diligence they employ to screen carriers.
- Check carrier's certificate of operating authority and company history.
- Cross reference phone numbers & addresses on FMSCA SAFER web site with that which is provided by the carrier.
- Request certificate of insurance directly from insurance provider to make sure the insurance provider and the certificate is real.

Physical Security

- Use GPS tracking technology and other chain of custody protocols.
- Install quality surveillance cameras in the right places.

Driver & Vehicle Evaluation

- Inspect driver's license for authenticity – invest in a license scanner or use an online authentication service.
- Take a photograph of the driver's license of ALL team drivers, or at the very least, take a clean scan of licenses (Scans do not capture all details).
- Ask to see their USDOT Medical Examiners Certificate; all interstate U.S. commercial drivers are required to carry a current copy!
- Take a close-up, frontal photo of the driver's face.
- Take a clean digital fingerprint... or old school ink... don't accept smears!
- Check the tractor VIN against the certificate of insurance.
- Make note of tags, ID numbers, and evidence of ghost or temporary signage.

Make a Report to Local Law Enforcement

If your cargo does not make delivery, and you lose contact with the carrier, and you contact the legitimate carrier, but they don't have knowledge of your load or the driver, make a report to law enforcement and to CargoNet.com. If your local law enforcement is unfamiliar with FPU, they might think it's a civil matter. Be sure to have information about the fraudulent nature of the transaction so that a report can be filed. FPU is usually considered a crime of "Grand Theft" or "Identity Theft."