

Mississippi Forestry Commission Use of Surveillance Cameras



TIMBER SECURITY TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE – WHY?



- TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS PROVIDE A STRONG DETERRENT AGAINST TIMBER THEFT.
- TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE ALONG WITH OTHER PREVENTATIVE MEASURES PROVIDES A MORE COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY PROGRAM.
- GATHERING EVIDENCE AFTER THE FACT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE USE OF TECHNICAL SURVEILLANCE.
- **IT IS A REQUIRED MFC TIMBER SECURITY MEASURE TO BE USED ON PAY AS CUT SALES.**

Preplanning is a vital step in a good timber security program. Several factors to consider in preplanning are:

- Type of activity being monitored – timber sale, dumping, or vandalism?
- Possible entry and exit points
- Camera locations and descriptions.
- Deployment schedule
- What do you want the camera to capture?

Timber Security Technical Surveillance Troubleshooting



AS A GENERAL RULE:

70% OF PROBLEMS ARE POWER RELATED.

20% OF PROBLEMS ARE OPERATOR RELATED.

10% OF PROBLEMS ARE EQUIPMENT RELATED.

Camera Installation

- Planning your installation
- Remember the 6 P's
 - Prior
 - Proper
 - Planning
 - Prevents
 - Poor
 - Performance

CAMERA ANGLE

2010-07-15 12:31:23 PM M 2/3 0 95°F



1610NBE



2012-03-16 7:22:09 AM M 1/3 0 63°F



PC900 COVERT PRO



Poor Installation

POOR ANGLE



WHAT'S MISSING?



Due to poor installation very little can be determined about the load (merchandizing) and truck identification.

Poor Location – Not Tested Properly.

2010-05-05 6:42:44 AM

M 5/5

60°F



RC60 COVERT



Troubleshooting

Once the test photos have been collected evaluate the images to identify and correct any camera placement and setting issues.

Example = ARE YOU CAPTURING WHAT YOU WANT TO CAPTURE?????

Example: Can the image help determine type product being hauled and/or description of trucks?

Proper Camera Placement



2012-03-01 1:26:29 PM M 1/3

83°F



PC900 COVERT PRO

RECONYX

Common Considerations

1. Use the site to it's maximum advantage.
2. Entry and exit points – seek places where traffic must slow down.
3. Is camera aimed into the sun.
4. Objects in front of lens that might trigger camera i.e. leaves, limbs, grass etc...
5. Exposure of equipment to possible damage.
6. Battery life and replacement schedule.
7. Can you detect any merchandizing problems.

Documenting Camera Installation



❖ THE SURVEILLANCE TEAM MUST DOCUMENT ALL INSTALLATION OF VIEWING DEVICES.

❖ TIME AND DATE OF DEPLOYMENT.

❖ LOCATION OF CAMERA.

❖ MAKE AND MODEL OF CAMERA.

❖ TIME AND DATE OF RETRIEVAL.

❖ NAME OF PERSON OR PERSONS INSTALLING CAMERA.

CONSIDER THAT THIS MAY BECOME EVIDENCE AT A LATER TIME.

Timber Security

1. Need to protect the surveillance techniques used by MFC.
2. Avoid “bragging” and “show-off” of video recordings for purposes other than official proceedings.
3. Never disclose specific technical data or installation techniques to the media or laypersons.
4. Never install with non-MFC personnel on the site.



MFC Camera and PAC Procedures

Keep in mind if there are any questions concerning any aspect of Timber Sale Security, ask for further instructions from your immediate supervisor.

1. On completion of pre-logging conference and beginning of harvesting, the SF must notify the ADF and DF by email or phone.
2. Security Camera must be deployed within two days of logging. If possible the camera should remain up during the entire sale, but is not required.
3. The **minimum** number of days the camera must be used to reconcile tickets:

| <u>Sale Acres</u> | <u>Min. Days</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|
| < 40 | 2 |
| 41-70 | 3 |
| 71-100 | 5 |
| 101-150 | 7 |
| 151-200 | 10 |
| 201 + | 13 |



MFC Camera and PAC Procedures

Continued...

4. When possible the camera should be deployed to assist in documenting the merchandising of timber on truck.
5. Upon visiting the logging site, examine Load Report at loader to see if loads exiting the site are being documented as they leave the site. Initial this report upon checking it. .
6. PAC must be checked three times a week. All field checks must be documented using the form in the workbook. **See Management manual for MFC guidelines.**
7. All Post-sale Cruise data must be run within three days of cruise and necessary communications made to logger/buyer about adjustments. If cruise cannot be run within three days, SF will seek assistance from ADF.



MFC Camera and PAC Procedures

8. All post cruise report must be filed into the timber sale file. Final post cruise data will be used to update Simms stand data at the time sale is completed.
9. Any discrepancies are detected, they must be communicated to the logger immediately; also notice must be given to the ADF and DF.
10. Any questions or problems should be communicated to the DF or ADF.

MFC PAC Reconciliation Procedures

In order for the timber security program to be truly effective we must be able to reconcile tickets accurately and in a timely manner.

1. Mill tickets will be arranged to be sent by the buyer to the District assigned Administrative Assistant (AA). Receipt of the tickets starts the clock ticking – timely processing is of the essence.
2. The AA will first notify the SF and ADF by phone and/or email that mill tickets have been received. **This must be done on the day of receiving the tickets.**
3. The AA will then begin entering the tickets into the Timber Sale Workbook; **this must be completed that week.** If the master timber sale file is located at the District Office, copies will be made and forwarded within the same week.

Reconciliation Procedures Continued...

4. The SF will decide which mill tickets need to be reconciled to the security photos and Load Reports. The AA will send the required mill tickets to the SF. **This must be completed within two days of receiving tickets.**
5. SF compares tickets to security camera photos and Load Reports. **This must be completed within five days of receiving tickets.**
6. This process will be documented in the Timber Sale Workbook – any problems will be reported to the ADF and/or DF.

Reconciliation Procedures

7. If the SF and/or his designee can't complete the process as scheduled, he will notify the ADF and ask for assistance.
8. Once Workbook has been completed it will be printed and a copy will be placed into the master timber sale file and a copy will be submitted to the Public Lands Program manager and to designated FIST team member.
9. Any you have questions or need further clarification concerning the stated policies contact your ADF or DF.



Storage of Imagery

- Once the images have been transferred from the camera, store them to a portable hard drive.
- Images will be kept until after the sale has been completed and logger has been released from the contract.
- Images are to be stored to DVD/CD and placed into the timber sale file.

Mississippi Forestry Commission



- ❑ **IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL CAMERAS, CALL YOUR IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR.**
- ❑ **SECURITY CAMERAS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR TIMBER SECURITY PROGRAM AND NEED TO BE USED IN A CONSISTENT MANNER.**
- ❑ **IF YOU NEED HELP DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE.**