

RedEye allows loggers to hit back at thieves

VANDALISM AND THEFTS OF FUEL AND items from logging equipment is becoming an increasing worry for many contractors around New Zealand.

But now there is a way to fight back. Security specialist Mi5 Ltd specialises in a wire-free surveillance system that discretely monitors valuable equipment and movements in the area when crews have left for the day or weekend.

The system is called RedEye and it consists of a portable digital surveillance camera that uses new technology to enable it to be powered by a single battery for up to 4.5 months before needing to be recharged (or it can utilise a solar power option). RedEye's 100% wire-free operation means no expensive cables to run.

RedEye has been developed in Australia, where it has been successfully used to guard remote farm sheds & equipment, mining and outback operations and is now being adopted by farmers here in New Zealand.

It's also been put to use by logging operations, who say that police have been able to identify and catch offenders and return stolen goods due to the surveillance, according to Nick Mooyman, General Manager of Mi5 Limited.

"We believe our unique portable camera technology may be of real benefit to the logging industry –we already have a number of case studies that prove this is the case," says Mr Mooyman.

Recently Mi5 carried out several surveillance solutions for logging companies who had been suffering from regular occurrences of fuel theft, vandalism and theft of equipment. The cameras, which are small enough to be hidden or disguised so they cannot be seen, showed culprits tampering with equipment and emptying fuel from trailers. The camera clearly caught their faces and also the registration of vehicles. Mr Mooyman says the images are of such good quality they can be used in criminal prosecutions.

The RedEye camera automatically records on each photo the time and date of capture and the time gap between each photo. Gaps between each shot can be varied and the camera can store up to 65,000 photos. Photos can be taken in colour or black and white, which provides a slightly better image in low light conditions. There is also an infra-red option for night-time use. Crews arriving each morning can download the memory card into a laptop computer to view the previous night's activities or it can be connected to a third-party monitoring system.

Mr Mooyman says the RedEye system works better than traditional Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) video surveillance because the images are clearer and it needs less power to operate.

The other advantage is its portability. The system can be moved from site-to-site and be ready to record in a matter of minutes. A TV-like remote control is used to switch it on or off. NZL



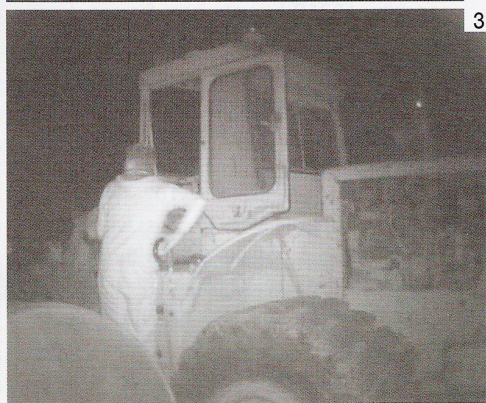
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- 01:** The RedEye camera can be disguised to hide it from intruders.
- 02:** Thief is caught stealing fuel.
- 03:** This man is spotted climbing into a cab.
- 04:** The camera picks up the make and registration of a vehicle (blacked out) at a skid site.