

**Do you know  
where your  
vehicle is?**

**LEAVE NOTHING TO CHANCE**

**IN THIS EDITION**

Greetings & welcome

Security tips

Recovery statistics

Great news for the SME  
fleet owner

Food for thought

Recovery anecdote

Powered by



everywhere you go

TELESALES

0800 BANDIT

BANDIT DIRECT

0800 ACTIVE

**BANDIT BEACON**

EDITION: JUNE 2008

Greetings and welcome to our latest newsletter – the first in a revamped and revitalised series. Another month, another new record fuel price! Rising transport costs are being held largely responsible for higher food and commodity bills, and more and more vehicle-based companies are reportedly taking the financial hit themselves to keep consumer resistance at bay. Among the most adversely affected is our vital SME sector, and for this reason we are proud to say that our groundbreaking joint initiative with MTN has moved into top gear. Read on, become informed and enjoy – thank you from the **Bandit** Team!

**GREAT NEWS FOR THE SME FLEET OWNER**

**OUR MTN CHANNEL WIDENS**

More than 40 stores belonging to the nationwide MTN Dealer network have already signed the FLEET-CONNECT agreement and another 80 are currently in the pipeline. Furthermore, the next stage of our roll-out is expected to see an additional 100 MTN Dealer stores join the FLEET-CONNECT family, and we are working hard to ensure that the list keeps growing!

Nicole Swart of **Bandit's** MTN Dealer Channel congratulates Hartebeespoort Cellular's Andre van der Merwe on signing of the FLEET-CONNECT agreement.



FLEET-CONNECT is the outcome of a collaboration with MTN which arose when the cellular giant identified within the client base of its countrywide MTN Dealers network a core of SME entrepreneurs with the need to maximise productivity and minimise running costs with regards to their fleets of bakkies, LDVs etc.

It was recognised that a **Fleet Management System** to meet the criteria of this demographic would need to be readily affordable while at the same time delivering the primary demands of effective monitoring – the ability to have 24/7 live satellite positioning/speed of all vehicles by means of a secure website and/or cell-phone messaging, instant access to the Trip History of each vehicle and a basic, speed-based assessment of Driver Performance.

Integrated Stolen Vehicle Tracking and Recovery features were also deemed necessary, along with one of our most recent innovations - the Impact Sensor - which sends an Instant Alert via both the Website and SMS.

Attractively-priced with no hidden costs and fully-inclusive of all system communications charges, the profit-enhancing FLEET-CONNECT system is available only via **MTN** Dealers. Contact your nearest outlet for further details.

**RECOVERY STATISTICS**

**RECOVERY STATISTICS: MAY 2008: 89.7%**

Our national average for 2008 thus far, relating to our complete range of GSM-based Vehicle Tracking and Fleet Management/Integrated Recovery models. Analysing the Recovery Statistics for May, the number of hijackings decreased from the 50 percent recorded during April to 38.5 percent of total incidents. Commercial Vehicles were involved in 40 percent of May's hijackings – a decrease from the 62.5 percent handled during April. This category continues to be most favoured by criminals, however, and in May accounted for fractionally higher than 53 percent of total incidents - a drop from April's 62.5 percent - and included just more than 50 percent of static thefts.

**SECURITY TIPS**

**MIND YOUR BEHIND!**

In the event of being rear-ended while waiting at a stop street or traffic lights – especially at night or in a quiet part of town – do NOT be the first to get out of your vehicle. Rather see what the other driver does, and look around to make sure that no threatening persons are approaching. Criminals believe that a motorist at the receiving end of even a minor fender-bender will react instinctively out of irritation and, based on what has befallen **Bandit** clients, they are often correct.



Hijackers are hoping for one of two possible scenarios: the intended victim immediately jumps out to 'have a go' at the offending driver and either leaves his or her keys in the ignition or pockets them but in the heat of the moment forgets to activate a security device. These reactions allow accomplices – lying in wait at the intersection or in the

'battering ram' – to simply knock their target to the ground and drive off, or take the vehicle keys at gunpoint and achieve the same result.

The fact that **Bandit** will in all likelihood recover hijacked vehicles within a short space of time is secondary to the point of avoiding physical harm, so if faced with an imminent threat to personal safety, rather drive off and go directly to the nearest police station. Be extra vigilant at all times and take whatever steps are necessary to stay safe!

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

When an Annie's Carriers MAN horse-and-trailer fitted with a **Bandit** FleetOne management/tracking system and carrying 34 tonnes of rice was hijacked in Mobeji, Durban, our 24-Hour Control was able to take two courses of action which soon led to a highly successful outcome. These were to activate the fugitive vehicle's onboard digital Beacon Transmitter and to plot its GPS-derived live positioning data on the **Bandit** Website. The latter proved invaluable, for even though we found the hijacked combo just less than an hour later, its load of rice had already disappeared. By looking at the vehicle's Trip History on our website, though, it could be seen exactly where a stop had been made, and that was where we found the cargo in a leased warehouse. SAPS staked out the venue and arrests were duly made. The owner of Annie's Carriers, Mr Calvin Kippen, praised both **Bandit's** response time and our technology – Trip History is a standard feature of ALL our Fleet Management Systems, including the FLEET-CONNECT joint initiative with **MTN**.



**RECOVERY ANECDOTE**

The two armed men lying in wait within a 'secure' Randburg complex must have rubbed their hands in criminal glee when they saw four women arrive, park their VW Polo and enter one of the luxury simphexes...leaving the front door wide open. Single mother Mrs Jacqueline Nunes, her daughter, step-daughter and niece –aged between 17 and 20 – found themselves being threatened with death before they had even finished putting down their handbags and switching on the lights. "I suppose we were foolish and not vigilant enough," Mrs Nunes said afterwards, "but this was supposed to be a safe place to live."

The home-invasders tied up their victims, took all their valuables and began systematically ransacking the abode, transferring their booty to Mrs Nunes's car. Once satisfied - "sometime between 11 o'clock and midnight" - they locked the four women into a bedroom with the final warning that "if we screamed for help or tried to escape before they had safely made their getaway, they would come back and kill us all". Mrs Nunes waited until she heard her Golf drive off before getting free of her ropes, untying the younger women and then climbing through an unbarred window to raise the alarm.

Due to a combination of "deep shock and policemen swarming all over my home", it was after 9 a.m. when Mrs Nunes contacted **Bandit**. We simultaneously put ground and helicopter teams into action, ascertained GSM positioning coordinates from her car's Active tracking unit and soon found the Polo near O.R. Tambo International. After recovering from her ordeal, Mrs Nunes thanked "all **Bandit** personnel involved for keeping in touch with me throughout the tracking process and offering whatever assistance we might need...it was greatly appreciated by all of us who were so traumatised."