



Lumbermen's Association of Texas

## ABOUT LAT

We are a trade association serving the Texas building materials supply chain, which includes lumberyards and building material dealers, manufacturers, mills, distributors and service providers.

Many LAT members are multi-generational, family owned and operated businesses. We supply every sector of Texas' thriving housing and construction economies but focus on serving independent home builders, remodelers, repair trades and DIYers.

As businesses deeply invested in the communities they serve, LAT members have a long history of legislative engagement. Our businesses have always been and will continue to be economic drivers in the towns, cities and counties across Texas.



**Mobile Loaves & Fishes**  
Serving Goodness.

### Commitment to Community

LAT is a proud supporter of Mobile Loaves & Fishes and its mission to support our homeless neighbors and to serve as a model to address homelessness in other Texas communities. Our commitment to this work is emblematic of our members' deep Texas roots and investment in the communities we serve.

LAT members have championed the growth of Community First! Village - a master planned community providing affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for those coming out of chronic homelessness.

## LAT: BUILDING MATERIALS THEFT IS A FINANCIAL AND PUBLIC SAFETY RISK TO TEXAS BUSINESSES & CONSUMERS

Whether it is organized retail crime at its retail locations of large quantities of power tools that are then sold via online platforms or truck loads of building materials stolen from lumberyards, mills or distributors and then sold on the grey market, the common thread for LAT's members is the organized, large-scale nature of the thefts, and the increased prevalence of this gang-like activity.

- **Partnership with the Texas Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigations Division**

LAT is working closely with the Organized Retail Theft dedicated FTEs based in the DPS Criminal Investigations Division and its seven regional offices. This investment has allowed LAT members to have a trusted partner to share information with, and at times, these agents have also been able to partner with local law enforcement to recoup stolen building materials. The need for these special agents is significant and growing and LAT supports additional FTEs so that Texas can go after the criminal gangs that are organizing this activity across the state and partner with District Attorneys to prosecute them.

*"The Texas building materials industry is experiencing unprecedented, organized criminal activity and theft of building materials. We need solutions such as a centralized communication platform for real-time alerts and information sharing among retailers, law enforcement and suppliers; stricter penalties in the Texas Penal Code for organized retail theft and legislation to make it easier to prosecute these crimes across jurisdictions," Mireya Zapata, Executive Director, LAT.*

## Board of Directors

### DISTRICT 1 – West Texas

Marilyn Archer, Morton Lumber, Borger  
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Stephanie Gilley, Teague Lumber, Fort Worth  
Nathan Sikes, Boise Cascade, Dallas

- **San Antonio Market**

**LAT Member:** Dixie-Plywood

**Date of Incident:** ## 2024

**Total of LBM Theft:** Six truckloads valued at \$210,000

**Note:** Also during March and September 2024, attempted thefts at two Houston, two Dallas and an additional San Antonio locations.

## CONTACT US

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## OUR MEMBERS' EXPERIENCE

LAT's retail members are victims of organized retail theft activity that includes casing of stores during the day with overnight break-ins and burglaries. Most recently we've seen organized criminal activity centered on power tools. In the Spring of 2023, there was STIHL power tool theft, with a focus on chainsaw thefts, was prevalent across the state and our members reported it in the Houston, Dallas and South Texas markets. Thefts will occur at multiple retail companies in the market and LAT members report finding their stolen goods listed on online platforms sometimes with their branded SKUs still attached.

- **Dallas Market**

**LAT Member:** DW

**Date of Incident:** June 2024

**Total of LBM Theft:** Two trucks of roofing materials with market value of \$40,000

**Note:** Dozen of attempts in the three months of the theft targeting everything from moulding, siding, plywood and roofing.

- **El Paso Market**

**LAT Member:** Foxworth-Galbraith Lumber Co.

**Date of Incident:** Fall 2024

**Total of LBM Theft:** CDX plywood, market value of \$160,000

**Note:** Perpetrators identified and provided falsified information as a legitimate Dallas firm ordering materials for a publicized local amphitheater project. Credit check was run and job sheet completed.

- **Houston Market**

**LAT Member:** Cameron Ashley Building Products

**Date of Incident:** March 2024

**Total of LBM Theft:** ##

**Note:** Roofing materials "ordered" by an existing lumberyard customer located 20 minutes from distributor.