ISRI BOLONEWS
SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Welcome to this edition of BOLO News. BOLO News is a monthly newsletter for law enforcement to share success stories and other information that may be pertinent in the ongoing fight against metals theft.

Theft in Plain Sight

Copper theft is often referred to as a crime of opportunity; meaning, it is abundant and easy to access, the risk of detection is low, does not require a great deal of skill in many cases, and can often be accessed by a lone thief in areas difficult to observe. However, as the following examples illustrate, law enforcement should be aware that multiple accomplices with technical knowledge consider the reward worth the risk and will commit theft in plain sight.

As reported by WSVN in Miami on November 3, 2105, authorities in Florida arrested 13 suspects for stealing more the $500,000 in underground copper cable from multiple locations across South Florida. Seven of the suspects worked for a subcontractor hired by Florida Power and Light. The suspects installed the cable during the day only to steal it at night. Wearing hardhats and vests, the thieves used a personal truck with a fake logo to steal the copper. Not only did they have the knowledge to commit the crime without electrocuting themselves, they stole the cable from back-up systems knowing the crime might not be readily detected. Luckily, in this case, officials at Florida Power and Light were alerted to the crime and contacted authorities.

Two thieves were arrested by Massachusetts authorities for stealing copper along Interstate Highways 91 and 391. As reported by Western Mass News, the two were arrested in June 2015 for stealing approximately 13,000 feet of wire, with an estimated value of $50,000. The two accessed the underground cable, used to power street lights, by forcibly removing manhole covers and cutting the copper cables. In this case, police were alerted by MASS DOT.

These cases also illustrate how thieves endanger critical infrastructure and put communities at risk. And, in the long run, we all pay; whether in increased costs for utilities or through tax money used to re-install power cable to street lights. So take a closer look at that work crew handling cable or that truck parked along the interstate. Someone might be stealing copper in plain sight.

ScrapTheftAlert.com Success Story

On November 17, 2015, the Calhoun County, MI, Sheriff's Department issued an alert for 870 pounds of brass and copper valued at $1,700, stolen from a recycling yard in Springfield, MI. Within 20 minutes of the alert broadcast, workers at OmniSource in

Reader Poll

Have you been involved in an investigation in which metals thieves were operating in "plain sight?"

A.) Yes
B.) No
C.) Undetermined

VOTE

Last month we asked readers, **Have you ever investigated a case involving stolen electronic goods and through your investigation determined it was sold as scrap?**

Here are the results:

Yes	50%
No	50%

In the News

Auburn, IN, recognized the stolen material from the alert and contacted authorities, culminating in the arrest of two suspects.The arrests resulted from excellent cooperation and communication between OmniSource; the Auburn, IN, Police Department; and the Calhoun County, MI, Sheriff's Department.

Questions?
Contact ISRI Director of Law Enforcement Outreach Brady Mills or call (202) 662-8526 for more information.

AG's Office Now Accepting Scrap Metal Dealer Registration Applications
KWCH.com, November 30, 2015

Telecommunication Line Damage to Steal Copper Puts Public at Risk
Bluefield Daily Telegraph, November 24, 2015

Air Conditioning Restored After Farrington High School Copper Theft
KHON2.com, November 23, 2015