ISRI BOLO NEWS
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.

Dealing with Stolen Electronics

According to a Consumer Reports survey, over 3 million smart phones were stolen in the U.S. in 2013. An estimated 2 million laptops are also stolen each year, with both numbers expected to increase. To thieves, the value of stolen smart phones and laptops is not necessarily in the personal information they contain, but in the resale value, or for those items that are no longer useful, in the value of the scrap materials they contain. Theft of electronic items is not limited to cell phones and laptops, but extends to desk top computers, copiers, and printers.

The recycling of electronics is big business. The industry adds over $20 billion to the U.S. economy and employs thousands. Electronic recyclers can shred those old computers and cell phones and recover scrap steel, aluminum, copper, lead, plastic, and glass. In addition, according to the U.S. International Trade Commission and ISRI's own findings, one metric ton of electronic scrap recovered from personal computers contains more gold than can be recovered from 17 tons of gold ore.

As is the case with stolen scrap metals such as copper, brass, and bronze, ISRI members and other honest recyclers do not want stolen electronics coming to their businesses and strive to work with law enforcement in identifying thieves. Recyclers of reusable electronics and suppliers want to get stolen phones out of the supply chain. Officers investigating the theft of cell phones and crime prevention officers should encourage victims to immediately notify their service providers of theft to ensure the phones are placed on the carrier blacklist. Once a phone is listed on the blacklist, carriers will not allow the phone to connect to the cellular network.

Functioning cell phones legitimately sold to recyclers are erased and refurbished for resale to suppliers. This calls for security up and down the supply chain. Recyclers go to great lengths and expense to secure their facilities from external and internal theft. However, law enforcement should be aware that once the reusable phones or the recycled materials from shredded phones and other electronics leave the recycler, they are susceptible to cargo theft (a topic coming up in a future *BOLO News*).

ScrapTheftAlert.com Success Story

Based on a ScrapTheftAlert.com alert submitted on July 1, 2015, by the Whittier, CA Police Department, one suspect was arrested and two others identified in the theft of a bronze statue. Unfortunately, the recovered statue of a construction worker, valued at approximately

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SCRAP THEFT ALERT.COM
The Scrap Recycling Industry's Neighborhood Watch

VISIT

Reader Poll

Have you ever investigated a case involving stolen electronic goods and through your investigation determined it was sold as scrap?

A.) Yes
B.) No

VOTE

Last month we asked readers, **"Does your department have a unit or officer specializing in investigating metals theft?"**

Here are the results:

Yes	59%
No	41%

In the News

$50,000, was cut into pieces by the thieves before they attempted to sell it for scrap. The Whittier PD was assisted by employees at Six-Pac Recycling in Corona, CA, who recognized the statue pieces based on the broadcast alert and contacted police.

Update: Substations Targeted for Copper, Police Seek Public Help
The Daily News, October 28, 2015

Copper Thieves, Dressed as Workers, Damaging Highway Reader Boards
King5.com, October 26, 2015

Thefts From Local Cell Phone Towers Could Prevent You From Calling 911
WSBT.com, October 23, 2015

Questions?

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