

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

Headlines

Metals Theft Laws in the States

With the recent passing of legislation in Alaska, all 50 states now have statutes on the books regarding metals theft. Laws can vary from state to state, and can even vary city by city within the state. Some state statutes, Nebraska for example, contain a preemption which allows municipalities to retain ordinances that are more restrictive than the state statute. It is important for law enforcement officers to have at least a working knowledge of applicable metals theft statutes and any other ordinances within their jurisdiction should they become involved in a metals theft investigation.

While there may be differences in statutes, there are also similarities. Common among state statutes are requirements for scrap recyclers to maintain detailed records of transactions, to include: photo identification of the seller; description of the items being purchased; and license plate number of the seller's vehicle. There are also requirements for the recycler to maintain records for a prescribed period of time and to make those records available to law enforcement upon request.

Laws not only place requirements or restrictions on the scrap metal recycler but on the seller or customer as well; for example, proof of ownership. Many states' statutes define certain metal items as restricted or regulated. Common examples are items used by governments, utilities or other specific industries. These include: light poles, manhole covers, street signs, water meters, electrical transmission lines, fire suppression connections, railroad equipment, historical markers and cemetery urns, to name just a few. The selling of these items can require a contract or letter from the manufacturer or original user as proof of authorization. Some states also address the sale of specific items. For example, Michigan law regulates the sale of air conditioning units and catalytic converters; favorites of thieves.

State legislatures continue to modify existing laws in reaction to problems faced by communities. For easy reference to summaries of the latest state metal theft statutes, refer to ISRI's publication [State Metal Theft Statutes](#).

Share your Success

The upgraded version of ScrapTheftAlert.com went operational in the spring. In order for ISRI to determine its effectiveness, it is important



Reader Poll

With the exception of the ScrapTheftAlert.com link, have you ever referred to the www.ISRI.org website for information regarding the recycling industry or metals theft? (Results will be revealed in the July issue of BOLO News.)

VOTE

Last month we asked readers, **"Many ISRI members extend invitations to law enforcement to tour their facilities in order to gain a better understanding of how the industry operates. Have you ever toured a recycling facility?"** Here are the results:

Yes	67%
No	17%
No, but I'd like the opportunity	17%

for you, our users, to continue to provide us with your feedback and success stories. You can do so by completing the 14-day tickler which is sent to all alert senders, or by emailing [Brady Mills](mailto:Brady.Mills).

In the News

[Farmer Holds Copper Wire Theft Suspect for Police](#)

Post-Tribune, June 4, 2014

[Police: Thieves Steal \\$1M Worth of Copper](#)

WPVI, June 3, 2014

[CSG Study Highlights Need for State Data on Metal Theft](#)

The Observer, June 2, 2014

[Ringleader Sentenced in \\$80 Million Copper Theft Ring](#)

Tucson News Now, May 29 2014

Questions?

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



1615 L Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC, 20036-5610
isri@isri.org | (202) 622-8500

