

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.

Metals Identification

The Reader Poll question in the August issue of *BOLO News* asked what topics you the readers would like to see covered. By a large margin, Metals Identification topped the list. Understanding the terms used by recyclers will assist investigators in a numbers of ways. For instance, investigators using proper descriptors when describing stolen metals on ScrapTheftAlert.com will assist recyclers in identifying the materials if brought to their yards for sale. Also, investigators will better understand the transaction tickets recyclers issue to sellers listing the items purchased.

The two terms used most often by metal scrap recyclers and that investigators need to know the difference between are ferrous and nonferrous metals. Most state laws distinguish between ferrous and nonferrous metals. Ferrous metals are those containing significant amounts of steel or iron and have magnetic properties. Nonferrous metals do not contain large quantities of steel or iron and are for the most part nonmagnetic. Nonferrous metals include copper, brass, aluminum, bronze, zinc, nickel, and alloys thereof, but exclude precious metals. These metals are generally lighter than ferrous metals, which makes them more portable and modifiable and therefore the most frequently stolen materials.

Each of the nonferrous metals described above includes multiple sub-categories. For example, copper can be Number 1 or 2 Copper, or Sheet Copper to name a few. Aluminum can be cast, sheet or extruded, and brass can be yellow or red. A *Glossary of Common Materials Processed by Recycling Companies* can be found on the StopMetalsTheft.org website under the *Tools for Law Enforcement* tab. This Glossary contains photographs and definition of common materials. Additional information can be found on the ISRI website.



Reader Poll

Has reviewing STA alerts broadcast in your area aided you in your patrol efforts in regards to metals theft?

VOTE

Last month we asked readers, "Have you ever investigated a metals theft occurring at a utility substation?"

Here are the results:

Yes	88%
No	13%

User Feedback: Another Way to Use ScrapTheftAlert.com

Feedback emails sent to alert submitters ask four questions; Has the case been resolved; Was any property recovered; Were any arrests made or warrants issued; and Was the theft alert useful. Of course, ISRI hopes the answer to all four questions is - Yes. However, it is not uncommon for feedback to be received indicating "No" to the first three questions, but "Yes", the alert was useful. A representative number of those submitting such feedback have been asked, through phone calls and emails, how was the alert useful if it did not result in an arrest or recovery. The answer across the board has been – it helps in keeping us informed on what is going on around us and in getting the word out to other departments in the 100 mile radius on current trends. Please keep the feedback coming.

In the News

Vineland Police Report 33 Tons of Scrap Metal Stolen from Business

NJ.com, November 14, 2014

Nothing Is Safe from Detroit Scrappers, Not Even Restaurant Bathrooms

Deadline Detroit, November 12, 2014

Thieves Target Catalytic Converters for Precious Metals

Kane County Chronicle, November 7, 2014

Copper Theft Blacks Out Half of Winfield

The Winfield Daily Courier, November 3, 2014

Questions?

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



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