

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

### Officer Safety – Electric Utility Substations



Copper theft is often viewed as a victimless crime. However, in terms of dollars and cents, we all pay. But, there is a very real physical danger associated with copper theft and officers need to be aware; not only for your own safety, but for the safety of the communities you serve.

Copper busbars and ground wires found in electric utility substations are a favorite of copper thieves. Substations are tempting sites for thieves for a number of reasons. Not only do they hold large quantities of copper, they are often located in remote areas or are at least obscured from public view. Thieves might view the risk of detection and arrest as low, but the risk of injury is high. Unsuspecting thieves have been electrocuted while stealing copper from substations, poles, and towers. Even if they are successful, the danger remains.

Officers should be aware that the removal of ground wires can cause the fence surrounding a substation to become energized with a lethal current. This creates a danger for anyone entering, to include responding law enforcement, emergency personnel, or children who may enter through a hole in the fence. The threat of electrocution can be present without visible clues such as sparks or fire from cut wires.

Precautions need to be taken. Law enforcement should always contact the controlling utility company before entering a substation. Contact information and telephone numbers are posted on perimeter fencing. Utility workers can establish if and when the site is secure and safe to enter.

### ScrapTheftAlert.com (STA) Success Story



Pacific Steel and Recycling in Elko, NV, responded to an alert issued on July 15, 2014, by Det. Journigan of the Elko County Sheriff's Office regarding the theft of 1,800 lbs. of copper wire valued at approx. \$6,800. Based on the information provided, the Sheriff's Office was able to recover most of the wire (though cut and stripped) and to identify multiple suspects. The ScrapTheftAlert system proved instrumental in the case.

This story is being reported as this is the second STA success for



### Reader Poll

**Have you ever investigated a metals theft occurring at a utility substation?**

#### VOTE

Last month we asked readers, **"Have you encouraged any of your colleagues to register on ScrapTheftAlert.com?"**

Here are the results:

Yes	94%
No	6%

### In the News

**Metal Thefts Cost APS \$175K**  
KOAT, October 16, 2014

**State, Scrap Metal Dealers Stealing Themselves against Theft**  
Holland Sentinel, October, 15, 2014

Detective Journigan and Pacific Steel and Recycling. In September of 2011, more than 1,400 feet of copper wire was recovered and the perpetrator identified as a result of STA and Det. Journigan's working relationship with the recycler.

To view details about this and other [success stories](#), visit [www.ScrapTheftAlert.com](http://www.ScrapTheftAlert.com).

### Visit [StopMetalsTheft.org](http://StopMetalsTheft.org)

Earlier this year, ISRI created [StopMetalsTheft.org](http://StopMetalsTheft.org) an online resource providing tools for law enforcement and other stakeholders in the fight against metals theft. Visit [StopMetalsTheft.org](http://StopMetalsTheft.org) today to find out more.

#### Copper Thieves Put Power Workers in Danger in Lower Burrell

*Tribune-Review*, October 15, 2014

#### 2 Delaware Men Charged with Stealing Scrap Metal from Police Barracks Construction Site

NBC 10, October 13, 2014

#### Copper Theft Leads to Man's Electrocution

WTNH, October 1, 2014

### Questions?

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



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