

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.

Copper Theft: A Crime of Opportunity



One factor to consider when examining the continued problem of metal theft, and specifically copper theft, is easy accessibility to an abundance of copper. Copper theft is often times a crime of opportunity. Anywhere copper is visible or known to be accessible, is a target. This, combined with continued high prices, currently hovering around \$3.00 per pound, makes copper an attractive target for thieves.

Law enforcement is reminded that thieves often prey on easy targets such as vacant businesses or homes empty due to foreclosure. Thieves cause tremendous amounts of collateral damage when ripping copper pipes and wire from ceilings and walls. No one or place is immune. Copper downspouts have been stolen from churches and copper coils removed from school and business air conditioning units leaving them beyond repair. Copper wire and bus bars are stolen from utility substations often times leaving homes and businesses without power. Utilities and railroads often fall victim to copper thieves due to easy accessibility and a perceived lack of security measures.

Crime Prevention units of law enforcement agencies and officers on patrol can help combat metals theft by making citizens and business, especially those in high crime areas, aware of prevention techniques. These range from enclosing air conditioning units in wire cages to storing construction materials in secure areas. Additional tools for law enforcement can be found at StopMetalsTheft.org.



ScrapTheftAlert.com Update

Eight states have metals theft statutes requiring recycler registration with some form of notification system. Five states, Colorado, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, and Washington, specifically name ScrapTheftAlert as an appropriate or required system. ScrapTheftAlert.com is an effective tool, but requiring recyclers to register might be only half the equation. Registration by more and more law enforcement officers combined with recyclers would make the system even more



Reader Poll

Have you encouraged any of your colleagues to register on ScrapTheftAlert.com?

- A. Yes
- B. No

VOTE

Last month we asked readers, "What topics or information would you like to see more of in this newsletter?"

Here are the results:

Metals Identification	60%
Recycler Responsibilities	20%
State Statute Information	20%
ISRI Assets	0%
Law Enforcement-Recycler Collaborative Efforts	0%

effective. Registration is free and easy at ScrapTheftAlert.com.

Feedback Needed...

Please continue to provide feedback subsequent to submitting alerts through ScrapTheftAlert.com. Feedback emails are sent 14 days after the submission of an alert. The feedback is necessary for ISRI to track the effectiveness of the system and make any required improvements. Thank you for your assistance.

In the News

Nationwide News: Metal Theft Prevention for Home and Business

Ohio Farm Bureau, September 17, 2014

Metal Theft Legislation Goes to Judicial Council

High Plains/ Midwest AG Journal,
September 15, 2014

Insurance Deductibles Go Up as Copper Thefts Rise on the Farm
KWCH.com, September 10, 2014

Copper Thieves Using Fake Uniforms, Trucks to Con CA Victims

Breitbart.com, August 29, 2014

Questions?

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



Voice of the Recycling Industry

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