

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.

## Not All Metals Theft is Copper

When discussing metals theft, most people think of the theft of copper; copper wire, copper pipe, and even copper buss bars used in electrical substations. In fact, the vast majority of alerts broadcast on ISRI's [ScrapTheftAlert.com](http://ScrapTheftAlert.com) (STA) system are related to the theft of copper. However, thieves see money in other recyclable metals such as lead, and recyclable materials such as plastic.

More and more, alerts are being broadcast on STA for batteries. Batteries can be legitimately recycled for their lead content which has a current scrap value of approximately 30 to 35 cents per pound. The average car battery weighs approximately 40 pounds while batteries used in electrical substations and to supply backup power during power outages to cable and telecommunication companies can weigh over 100 pounds and cost in the neighborhood of \$500 each to replace. In addition to the economic loss, the safety of customers can be jeopardized if power or communications are interrupted by thieves after batteries.

## Plastic

The *Miami Herald* recently reported 20 people face criminal racketeering charges for the theft of \$1.5 million worth of plastic crates used by grocery stores. The crates were taken to grinders and then delivered to recyclers. Not even the U.S. Postal Service is immune to the theft of plastic pallets and crates. As previously reported in BOLO News, the Postal Service loses millions of dollars each year to the theft of delivery equipment.

Law enforcement, corporate security, property owners, and recyclers are all reminded that alerts for thefts of batteries, plastics, and paper/cardboard can be broadcast on [ScrapTheftAlert.com](http://ScrapTheftAlert.com).

## ScrapTheftAlert.com Success Story

On March 9, 2016, an alert was broadcast in the Denver area regarding the theft of 25 sets of brass fire system reducers and caps valued at approximately \$1,500. Within two hours of the broadcast, employees of Atlas Metal & Iron Corporation in Denver recovered the stolen items. Contact was subsequently made with the alert submitter and the items returned.

## Look for ISRI at Upcoming Law Enforcement Gatherings



## Reader Poll

Have you ever investigated the theft of recyclable materials other than ferrous or nonferrous metals?

[VOTE](#)

Last month we asked readers **Have you ever filed federal charges or facilitated the filing of federal charges in a metals theft case?**

Here are the results:

No	63%
Yes	37%
Not Sure	0%

## In the News

[Task Force Combats Metal Thefts](#)

IllinoisHomepage.net, April 26, 2016

As part of ISRI's ongoing effort to build awareness and work with law enforcement to tackle metals theft, ISRI will be participating and or exhibiting at the following upcoming law enforcement conferences:

**National Sheriffs' Association Annual Conference**

*June 24-28, Minneapolis, MN*

**Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Conference**

*July 10-13, Erie, PA*

**IACP Annual Conference and Exposition**

*October 15-18, San Diego, CA*

[Couple Arrested in Multi-State Copper Thefts](#)

KTEN.com, April 8, 2016

[Copper Theft on the Rise in Portsmouth](#)

WAVY.com, April 7, 2016

**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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