

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.

Working with the Prosecution to Build a Metals Theft Case

An article in the March/April 2015 edition of *Scrap* magazine (published by ISRI), [*Understanding the Prosecutors' Perspective on Metals Theft is the First Step Toward Getting More of These Cases to Trial and More Metal Thieves Behind Bars*](#), encourages recyclers to work cooperatively with state and local prosecutors in an effort to increase the likelihood of metals theft cases reaching prosecution. Along with the efforts of its members, ISRI has also taken steps to educate prosecutors on recycling operations and metals theft cases to dispel misperceptions of the industry and the impact of the crime. These steps include working with groups such as the National District Attorneys Association and the National Black Prosecutors Association. However, recyclers have limited access to prosecutors when compared to the interaction between law enforcement and prosecutors. The task of educating a prosecutor unfamiliar with metals theft cases might very well fall on the investigator presenting a case.

Due to the priorities and limited resources of district attorney offices, prosecution decisions often hinge on dollar amounts, especially when dealing with property crimes. When presenting a case for prosecution, investigators may want to keep the following in mind:

- Metals theft is not a victimless crime. We all pay; whether the financial burden of repair or replacement, or threats to public safety, e.g., 911 emergency lines are disabled or street lights do not work.
- The cost of damages often exceeds the value of stolen material. Many states consider damages when assessing loss.
- Threats to critical infrastructure such as public utilities or transportation systems (as highlighted in the ScrapTheftAlert success story below) can effect entire communities.

Additional information for law enforcement and prosecutors can be found at StopMetalsTheft.org.

ScrapTheftAlert Aids in Recovery of Union Pacific Copper Cable

ScrapTheftAlert.com has been credited with playing a key role in a Colorado theft case; the first case charging a suspect with a Class 3 felony under the upgraded Endangering Public Transportation & Utility Transmission law enacted on July 1, 2014. The pre-existing



Reader Poll

Have you had a metals theft case declined based solely on the value of the stolen material?

- A.) Yes
- B.) No
- C.) Not Sure

[VOTE](#)

Last month we asked readers, "Have you encouraged co-workers or colleagues to register with ScrapTheftAlert.com?"

Here are the results:

| | |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 81% |
| No | 13% |

law was enhanced to include theft as an additional endangerment.

On July 8, 2015, Union Pacific (UP) Railroad Police submitted an alert for the theft of 300 lbs of copper cable valued at \$3,000. A scale operator at a Denver, Colorado recycling yard recognized the suspect vehicle and material based on the alert and police were contacted. One arrest was made and the property recovered.

In the News

[Flood Damages Home After Copper Theft](#)

Courier Post, August 10, 2015

[Lower 9th Ward Copper Theft Delays First Day of School](#)

WDAM.com, August 7, 2015

[Kansas City Parks and Recreation Still Reeling from Years of Brass Theft](#)

KSHB.com, August 6, 2015

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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