

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.

### The Price of Copper Theft: It Costs More than the Metal

When it comes to metals theft and specifically copper theft, the damage and replacement costs often far exceed the value of the stolen material. However, the impact of metals theft cannot solely be measured in terms of dollars and cents. As the following two news articles illustrate, there can also be an impact on community safety and services:

- Parts of McDowell County, WV, lost land line calling capability as the result of the theft of copper communications cable. According to the [Bluefield Daily Telegraph](#), approximately 2,500 feet of cable was discovered stolen on December 3, disrupting telephone service.
- On December 4, [The News Herald](#) reported the programming at a Morgantown, NC, radio station was interrupted for several days due to the theft of 80 to 200 pounds of copper wire. The station's transmitters were crippled during the theft resulting in approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 in damages.

When telephone lines are cut, as in the first incident, community contact with emergency services is interrupted and the results can be devastating. In the second incident, not only was the station off the air for several days with extensive damages, but according to [The News Herald](#), a holiday charity event was disrupted. In this case, not only was the station affected, but also those in need.

When presenting a metals theft case for prosecution, officers are encouraged to present damages to prosecutors in addition to the value of the stolen material.

### ScrapTheftAlert Success

A Kohler 17 Pro OHV engine valued at approximately \$400 was recovered as the result of an alert broadcast by the Grandby, VT police department on September 4. The item was located at an area business and a suspect was identified.

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

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### Reader Poll

**Does your jurisdiction take into account damages as well as value when considering metals theft cases for prosecution?**

- 1) Yes
- 2) No
- 3) Not Sure

VOTE

Last month we asked readers, **"Has reviewing STA alerts broadcast in your area aided you in your patrol efforts in regards to metals theft?"**

Here are the results:

Yes	92%
Not Sure	8%

### In the News

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[Dentist Pleads No Contest to Metal Theft](#)

*The Des Moines Register*, December 12, 2014

[Jefferson County Churches Hit by Thieves](#)

KMOV.com, December 9, 2014

[Record Year in Metal Thefts for Coachella Valley Water District](#)

KESQ.com, December 8, 2014

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## 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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