

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.

Teamwork in Fighting Metals Theft

Arrests alone may not be enough to reduce occurrences of metals theft. As important as arrests and prosecution are to reducing any crime, it is equally important to reduce the opportunity for crime and to make the risk outweigh the reward. Cooperation among stakeholders is key. Only by working together can recyclers, law enforcement, prosecutors, business leaders, and community leaders, lessen both the opportunities for and occurrences of metals theft. A coalition of stakeholders in Tucson, AZ, serves as an excellent example.

As recently reported in *Tucson News Now*, Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild believes the community was spared losses estimated at \$2.5 million over five years for "...the value of metal that wasn't stolen..." This reduction in metals theft has been attributed to the cooperation among police, local business owners, and area scrap metal recyclers. Dan Heirshberg, with Desert Metals Recycling, credits teamwork among the participants of the local Metal Theft Task Force. Public education, in the form of public service announcements, has also proven to be an effective tool.

Other examples of collaboration exist across the country. In 2012, the Florida Recyclers Association joined law enforcement and legislators to craft laws and develop solutions to successfully address metals theft. The results have been a marked reduction in metals theft. Metals Theft Task Forces in North Texas and Metro Atlanta, to name but a few, have also proven to be effective.

Moving forward, only through a joint effort that includes all stakeholders, will we be able to effectively address the problem of metals theft. Law enforcement is encouraged to reach out to the scrap recyclers in their communities to develop relationships and keep open the lines of communication. By jointly addressing metals theft, we can reduce the rates of the crime and the impact it has on public safety and critical infrastructure.

ScrapTheftAlert Success Story

On November 13, 2014 in Edinburg, IN, police submitted an alert reporting the theft of identifiable copper dies used in the manufacturing of automotive parts, valued at approximately \$25,000. Based on the alert and the assistance of a Shelbyville, IN scrap recycler, police were able to make one arrest and a partial recovery of property valued at \$5,000.



Reader Poll

Does your municipality have a coalition of community members, to include recyclers, to address the issue of metals theft?

- A.) Yes
- B.) No
- C.) Unsure

VOTE

Last month we asked readers, **"Have you been called upon to provide metals theft prevention tips whether in a community meeting forum or during an investigation?"**

Here are the results:

Yes	67%
No	33%

As a reminder, for those that submit an alert via ScrapTheftAlert.com, expect to receive an email requesting *Feedback* approximately 14 days subsequent to the alert broadcast. Please take the time to answer the four questions to help ISRI track the effectiveness of the tool.

In the News

[Copper Theft Leaves Miami Day Care in the Dark](#)

CBS Miami, February 10, 2015

[Search for Copper Thieves in Trenton](#)

6ABC.com, February 10, 2015

[Thieves Hit Recycling Center for Scrap Metal](#)

FoxCarolina.com, February 4, 2015

[Man Sentenced for Stealing \\$200k Worth of Lead & Selling to Recycling Cos.](#)

Waste360.com, February 4, 2015

Questions?

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



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