

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.

Keep the Focus on Crime Prevention

According to the FBI, property crimes in 2013 decreased 4.1 percent over 2012 levels. Property crimes continued their decline in 4.3 percent in 2014 over 2013 levels. However, as has been previously reported in this column, crime rates specific to metals theft are hard to come by. Property crime statistics reported by the FBI include larceny, burglary, and automobile theft. Though there are indications that incidents of metals theft may also have declined, there is no separate statistic for metals theft.

In a Forecast Report dated September 8, 2015, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) reported metals theft insurance claims (the majority of which are copper thefts) also decreased in 2013 and 2014, after increasing from 2006 through 2011 and leveling off in 2012. The NICB also noted the correlation between copper prices and metals theft claims. Copper prices per pound peaked at over \$4 in 2011 and have steadily declined to current prices hovering at approximately \$2 per pound. Though crime rates and metals theft insurance claims may be falling, now is not the time to ease up on prevention.

Make no mistake, metals theft is not a thing of the past nor is it a minor crime with insignificant losses. In January of this year, 44 alerts were broadcast on the ScrapTheftAlert.com system. The median estimated dollar loss was approximately \$4,228. The success story below is a prime example of major thefts that continue across the country.

Also keep in mind that the price of scrap metal, like the stock market, is cyclical in nature. As the economy improves, it is likely the price of scrap metal will follow. It is important that incidents of metals theft do not rise along with prices. By keeping the focus on prevention, we can help keep that from happening.

ScrapTheftAlert.com Success Story

On January 10, 2016, the Tampa, FL Police Department broadcast an alert for the theft of Volvo truck tractor and trailer loaded with 41,000 pounds of aluminum clips and aluminum scrap pieces. The aluminum alone was valued at approximately \$50,000. Three days after the alert was broadcast, a local scrap recycler contacted Tampa PD after recognizing the stolen goods based on the alert. To date, a suspect has been identified and the truck, trailer, and approximately 24,000 pounds of the aluminum recovered.



Reader Poll

Has there been a decrease in incident of metals theft investigated by your department over the last three reporting years?

VOTE

Last month we asked readers:
Do you agree that STA can be an effective intelligence tool in the fight against metals theft?

Here are the results:

Yes	100%
No	0%

In the News

[Two Found with Hundreds of Pounds of Tulsa Copper](#)
Fox23.com, February 16, 2016

Questions?

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

[Overtown Church Receives Help After Copper Theft](#)

WSVN.com, February 10, 2016

[Metal Theft Task Force Hopes to Scrap a Statewide Problem](#)

Illinois Business Journal, February 8, 2016



Voice of the Recycling Industry

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