



# SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP BOLO NEWS



Institute of  
Scrap Recycling  
Industries, Inc.

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ScrapTheftAlert.com

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## ISRI Introduces BOLO News – The Newsletter of Metal Theft Strategies

Welcome to the inaugural issue of BOLO News, a newsletter for law enforcement subscribers to ScrapTheftAlert.com. This newsletter will be sent periodically to share success stories, working strategies, and other issues that may be pertinent in your fight against metal theft.

As a former detective who covered metal theft crimes (you can read more of my bio below), I know that you don't have time to waste reading a lot of fluff. Future issues of this bulletin will always be as direct and to the point as I can make them. Hopefully, they'll provide you with ideas on ways to prevent metal theft crimes and strategies for apprehending those who commit the crime.

You are getting this newsletter because you're registered to use ScrapTheftAlert.com. It's a tool designed for your use and, when used properly, it can be a big help in your investigations.

Here are some tips that can help make ScrapTheftAlert.com a better tool for you:

- 1. Report the theft quickly.** The sooner scrapyards know about your stolen material, the sooner they can be on the lookout, and the better chance of recovery.
- 2. Give a complete description of the stolen material.** Experience shows that the more unique an item is, the more likely it will be spotted. Be as descriptive as possible including weights/measurements, colors, any markings that might be on the material – anything that makes this material unique. Your goal should be to make this stand out against a sea of other scrap metals.
- 3. Provide photos if possible.** The Scrap Theft Alert System can accept up to four photos of the material.
- 4. When submitting your report, click the "submit" button one time only.** You will see a delay of up to 30 seconds, but the report will go through. Clicking "submit" multiple times will result in your alert being broadcast to the same recipients multiple times which is a waste of your time and others'.
- 5. Your alert will only be automatically broadcast if it occurred within the past 14 days.** If it occurred over 14 days prior, the system will still take your alert. Your alert will then come to me for approval, and then I can broadcast it. Generally, stolen material will wind up in a scrapyards within 14 days. This way we can keep all of the alerts fresh.
- 6. Your alert, once entered, will be automatically be broadcast to every registered recipient within a 100 mile radius of your location** to include other law enforcement officers, recyclers, and other stakeholders. (Only LEO alerts are broadcast immediately with no intervention from ISRI Staff. ISRI Staff can extend the coverage area to a larger radius and we will do so automatically if we believe the material to be of a nature that warrants a larger distribution. You may also request a larger distribution be sending an email to [theftalert@isri.org](mailto:theftalert@isri.org)).

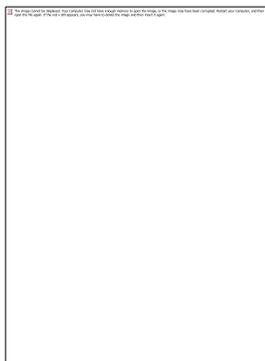
Please pass the Scrap Theft Alert information to your fellow officers/detectives, supervisors, and crime analysts.

Encourage them to register, if they haven't done so already. Obviously, the more we have signed up on the system, the more effective it will be. In upcoming editions, I will pass along some success stories from some of your fellow law enforcement colleagues who have used ScrapTheftAlert.com. It's a great way to keep up with what is going on. I will also keep you posted on any industry information that might be pertinent to your job. Metal prices are beginning to rise, and as a result, metal theft is on the rise, as well. (I see all alerts from around the country) This is our opportunity to be proactive before this problem gets out of control.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance. You may contact me at [garybush@isri.org](mailto:garybush@isri.org) or you may call my office at 352-433-2477. For more information on ISRI's efforts to combat metal theft, visit [www.isri.org/theft](http://www.isri.org/theft). If you do not wish to receive these updates, you will have the opportunity to unsubscribe at the link below.

**Gary Bush**  
**National Law Enforcement Liaison**  
**Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc**

**So, who is Gary Bush?**



I'm the National Law Enforcement Liaison for the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI). ISRI is the trade organization that represents over 1,550 member recycling companies nationwide. I have been with ISRI for nearly a year. Prior to that, I was a law enforcement officer in Florida for almost 33 years.

Over my career, I have been a Patrol Officer, Property Crimes Detective, Major Crimes Detective, and Sergeant. Back in 2006, my jurisdiction (Marion County, Florida) began experiencing a huge upsurge in construction theft, due in large part to the building boom that was occurring around the country. In the following months, the focus shifted from construction theft to metal theft, as the prices of metal went sky high. My last two years at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, I specialized in investigating metal thefts and arrested a lot of bad guys for it.

My experience has given me a unique perspective of having seen the problem of metal theft from both sides of the scrapyards fence. I have walked a mile in your shoes - juggling cases, dealing with prosecutors, and my personal favorite, defense attorneys. As it turns out, here in Marion County, Florida, we were able to establish a partnership between law enforcement and our local recyclers, which resulted in over 80 arrests in just over a 5 month period.

The key to our success was not necessarily excellent detective skills, it came from developing a real working relationship with recyclers. I'd say that none of these arrests would have been made if not for our partnership with the recyclers.

As ISRI's National Law Enforcement Liaison, I handle most of the day to day operations for the Scrap Theft Alert System for the United States and Canada, approving alerts issued by recyclers and other stakeholders, vetting new officers onto the system, and providing guidance to those using the system. I've also developed an outreach plan, conducting workshops to help law enforcement and recyclers learn just how each can help the other in combating metal theft. Among others, I have given presentations in Minneapolis, Salt Lake City, Oklahoma City, Tucson, and New Orleans with more planned in the future.

I am excited about this newsletter, since it gives me an opportunity to communicate directly with all of you. I have probably had to deal with a lot of the issues you may have in your metal theft investigations. I will also be able to pass along any industry information that may impact or be of interest to the law enforcement community.

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