



SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

BOLO NEWS



Institute of
Scrap Recycling
Industries, Inc.

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Welcome to this edition of *BOLO News*. *BOLO News* is a monthly newsletter for law enforcement subscribers that shares success stories and other information that may be pertinent in the ongoing fight against metals theft.

Industry Definitions

With many new Law Enforcement Officers registering with *ScrapTheftAlert.com* this past year, including several new to metals theft investigations, we thought it would be helpful to include key definitions and terms used by the recycling industry to help understanding as we work together to combat metals theft.

- **Ferrous Metal** – A metal in which iron is the principal element. The most common ferrous metal is steel. A magnet will stick to most ferrous metals. Some examples of ferrous metals are steel, stainless steel, and all types of iron such as wrought iron, cast iron, pig iron, and some others.
- **Non-Ferrous Metal** - A non-ferrous metal is any metal, including alloys, that does not contain iron in appreciable amounts. A magnet will not stick to non-ferrous metals. Some examples include aluminum, copper, lead, nickel, tin, titanium and zinc, and alloys such as brass.
- **Bare Bright Copper** - Copper that is clean, bright and essentially looks new. Very minimal patina can be seen on the wire.
- **#1 Copper** - Can be clean and shiny as well as patina'd to dark brown, black, or bluish green colors. Cannot be sheet or light weight gauged copper. No silver soldering on pipe/tubing. Minimal or no calcification inside tubing/pipe. No plastic coatings, paint or other surface materials, other than naturally occurring patina.
- **#2 Copper** - #2 copper may be somewhat dirty, zinc or nickel coated, painted, soldered with lead/silver etc. Sheet and light weight gauge wire are categorized as a #2 grade copper. Calcification inside and other debris pipe/tubing allowed, but cannot be excessive. Insulated copper wire that has been burned to remove the plastic insulation still contains plastic and ash residue and so it is graded as #2 copper.
- **#3 Copper** – Copper that is a low value/lower recovery because it is contaminated by other metals. Copper that has brass or steel fittings still attached is considered contaminated and fits into this category.
- **ICW** – Insulated copper wire
- **Extruded Aluminum** – Extruded window frames and non-structural construction aluminum. It can be painted, bare, or anodized.
- **ACR's** – Aluminum copper radiators. Primarily derived from air conditioners.

These are just a few of the more commonly used terms in the industry. I'll include more definitions in the next edition and we will post them on the ISRI.org/theft web page for your reference at any time.

Law Enforcement Outreach

Over the past several months, ISRI participated in several successful law enforcement metals theft training sessions in the Commonwealth of Virginia. These training courses were organized by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services,

Division of Law Enforcement, Crime Prevention. Officers in attendance earned training credits for their participation and received instruction on the latest metals theft crime trends and prevention success stories.

The courses covered legislative and statutory review, examples of metals theft criminal activity, metals identification, *ScrapTheftAlert.com* training, and an overview of scrapyards operations and record keeping procedures. The training promoted the value of communication and collaboration between law enforcement, the recycling industry, and other stakeholders in combating metals theft as opposed to a common belief that we can legislate or arrest our way out of it. Partnerships are proven to work, and the recycling industry IS part of the solution. Response from law enforcement attendees was excellent, including some great questions and suggestions.

Recyclers have a unique ability to assist law enforcement with their investigations and ISRI members are eager to help. Part of the solution to combating this crime involves proper understanding and compliance with the law, as well as to whom and how it applies. The Virginia programs emphasized for the law enforcement attendees how partnering with recyclers in the training process is an effective method for understanding the full scope of the problem and manageable ways to attack it. For ISRI, the Virginia programs highlighted how law enforcement agencies around the nation might benefit from this kind of training.

What are your thoughts? Would you or your agency like more training on metals theft or are there other tools you would find more effective to help you with your jobs?

Speak Your Mind

ISRI knows this issue is a challenge and takes its responsibility as being part of the solution seriously. As such, please let us know if implementation of any of the following ideas would help you in your efforts to stop metals theft...

- **Training credits** offered in your jurisdiction/state for metals theft crime prevention courses.
- **Recycling yard tours** particularly designed for law enforcement that highlight the record keeping and evidence collected by recyclers every day.
- **Specific metals identification courses** on how to spot stolen or suspicious scrap metal material.
- **Community outreach functions** such as picnics or other social events sponsored by local recycling yards that are designed to bring law enforcement, community members, and recyclers together to open up communications.

If we've missed the mark here, tell us. We want to know your ideas, thoughts, or suggestions on how the recycling industry can assist you.

Please feel free to contact me at GaryBush@isri.org or call me at my office in Florida at 352-433-2477.