



SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP BOLO NEWS



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ScrapTheftAlert.com

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Welcome to this edition of BOLO News. BOLO News is a monthly newsletter for law enforcement subscribers of ScrapTheftAlert.com that shares success stories and other information that may be pertinent in the ongoing fight against metals theft. Over the next few months, BOLO News will cover some of ScrapTheftAlert.com's most frequently reported items, as well as those that are more unusual in nature.

Vehicle Thefts

How many of you knew that you could use ScrapTheftAlert.com to report stolen vehicles? Although ScrapTheftAlert.com was never meant to be a clearing house for reporting stolen cars, it certainly can be used in some circumstances for getting the word out concerning stolen vehicles that might be targeted by scrap thieves. For example, a 2012 Cadillac Escalade that has been stolen probably will not wind up in a scrapyard, but a 1978 Ford Granada sitting on concrete blocks in somebody's yard very well might wind up there. In southern Florida, as an example, there have been many cases in which an older, disabled vehicle left on the side of the road has "disappeared." Unfortunately, even a stolen "junker" is a Part I Crime and has to be investigated as if it were a brand new car, at least in that jurisdiction. A BOLO was issued and the vehicle was entered into NCIC.

How to Use ScrapTheftAlert.com for Stolen Vehicles

Many scrapyards legitimately take in dozens of automobiles daily, so it makes sense to use ScrapTheftAlert.com and get an alert out as soon as possible. The sooner an alert goes out, the better chance the recycler has in locating your stolen car. Since alerts go out to every registered scrapyard and LEO within a 100 mile radius of the location of the theft within minutes of broadcast, this will get you a lot more coverage faster than if you were to try and call every scrapyard within your jurisdiction. When you enter the details for an alert, in the description field be sure to list a complete description of the vehicle just as if you were taking an original police report. Include the make, model, year, color, VIN, and license plate number if applicable. If there are any identifiable characteristics of the vehicle in question, such as a dented fender, be sure to list that, as well. With the current ScrapTheftAlert.com there is not a field specifically for vehicles, however, with the new ScrapTheftAlert.com that is scheduled to launch in spring 2014, there are fields specifically designed for vehicles.

What Else Can You Do?

In addition to stolen cars, many theft alerts have been issued for stolen automotive parts. Some of these include engines, transmissions, rear ends, axles, rims, and body parts. As with any other alert, be sure to include a complete description of the missing parts. Thefts involving vehicle body parts should include the make, model, and color of the vehicle they came from, if this information is available.

Did You Know?

We have received several alerts involving vehicles that had not been stolen. The vehicles in question were being sought in major cases such as homicides, robberies, or kidnapping. In these instances, attempts were made to scrap a car to cover up another crime. ScrapTheftAlert.com can assist with these types of cases by getting the information out to all the registered scrapyards or LEOs in your jurisdiction.

Feedback on Catalytic Converters

ISRI received some great feedback from last month's piece on catalytic converters. Officer Don Hawkins, Secondary Metal Recyclers Compliance Officer for the Fort Worth Police Department in Fort Worth, Texas, sent this comment, which is included here with his permission:

I'm sure everyone knows but the most hit vehicle for cats are the 2007 Dodge 2500's and up. Meaning all Dodge's after the year 2007 and all 2500 series and up have the most of the precious metals in them. Furthermore, every truck of this nature has the possibility of having the two cats and one other piece under the hood. I forget the name of it. There is a company on the east coast that is paying \$400 for each one. A nice total of \$1200 per vehicle. It's no wonder these trucks are getting hit like they are.

Anyway, I thought I would pass this info along for those that may not have it. If I can ever be of assistance please let me know...

Officer D.A. Hawkins

Thanks to Officer Hawkins for his comments. If anyone has any further information on this or future articles that might be beneficial to the other LEOs, please feel free to send them to [Gary Bush](#).

In the News

The following are links to news stories from around the country that cover the growing metals theft problem. These stories not only illustrate the breadth of the issue, but also how law enforcement officers are creatively addressing it.

[Thieves Try to Convert Heavy Metal Into Cash](#), *The Columbus Dispatch*, November 28, 2013

[Fairfield Companies Searched, 8 Arrested in Connection with Milk Crate Theft Ring](#), *The Star-Ledger*, November 22, 2013

[Why Detroit's Lights Went Out](#), *USA Today*, November 17, 2013

[Business Owner Gets Terrifying Ride, But Stops Alleged Scrap Metal Theft \(video\)](#), *The Patriot News*, November 16, 2013

[Trying to Curtail the Consequences of Copper Thefts](#), *Illinois Homepage*, November 15, 2013

Monthly Law Enforcement Reader Poll

Please take a moment to answer this month's *BOLO News* Law Enforcement Reader Poll (to answer the question, click on the link below):

Over the past several months I have noticed that metals theft in my jurisdiction has:

- a. Increased slightly
- b. Increased significantly
- c. Stayed about the same
- d. Decreased slightly
- e. Decreased significantly

(Results of this month's poll will be revealed in the January issue of *BOLO News*.)

Results of the November Law Enforcement Reader Poll:

Have you established a working relationship with your local recyclers?

Yes - 80%

No - 20%

Tis the Season

It's hard to believe that the holidays are once again upon us and we are well aware of how hectic this time of year is for the law enforcement community. From all of us here at ISRI and ScrapTheftAlert.com, we wish all of you and your families a happy and SAFE holiday season.

Comments & Questions

Contact [Gary Bush](#) or call his office in Florida at 352-433-2477.