



# SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP BOLO NEWS



Institute of  
Scrap Recycling  
Industries, Inc.  
Voice of the Recycling Industry

Contact: Gary Bush, National Law Enforcement Liaison  
garybush@isri.org • 352-433-2477

**ScrapTheftAlert.com**

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Welcome to the second edition of BOLO News. I received quite a bit of positive feedback on the first edition from law enforcement officers around the country, as well as from some recyclers who had an opportunity to see it. As I stated before, I know you don't have a lot of time on your hands so let's get to it.

### Scrap Theft Alert Statistics

ScrapTheftAlert.com has been up and running since the latter part of December 2008. To date, there are almost 850 law enforcement officers nationwide signed up. There are almost 6300 registrants signed up total. The registrants are made up of scrap metal recyclers, law enforcement officers, utility companies, power companies, telecommunications companies, railroads, and any other person or company that would be considered a stakeholder. There are more people/companies signing up daily. So far, there have been over 500 alerts issued through ScrapTheftAlert.com. We have several success stories of both recyclers and law enforcement officers who have used ScrapTheftAlert.com and I will share one of these with you later.

### Tips and Hints

Since I see every alert that comes through STA (ScrapTheftAlert) I can see that descriptions in the alerts are getting better. However, I'd like to point out a couple of key points to assist the recyclers in locating your stolen materials. Keep in mind the recyclers generally take in tons of "stuff" per day, to include copper wire, steel, brass, and just about anything else that isn't bolted down. Most of the recyclers will be glad to assist you in locating your material, but the object here is to make your material stand out so that it is more easily identifiable. Some items are easily identifiable i.e. statues, cemetery plaques and such. In the case of copper wire, this will help the recyclers. What gauge is the wire? Is it insulated? If so, what color is the insulation? How much wire or the length that was stolen? Are there any identifiable marks on the insulation? (some specialized wire is marked every few feet with a company name or other identifying numbers) On occasion, the owner/ company marks the wire. Put yourself in the recycler's shoes. What will make YOUR material stand out to them? Also, be sure to include an approximate value of the stolen material, and you can upload up to four photos if you happen to have them. Photos are great for the recyclers. Don't forget to include your complete contact information so that in the event a recycler locates your material, they know how to get in touch with you.

### Goals for 2010

As you can imagine, the more stakeholder companies and law enforcement officers that are signed up on STA, the more successful it will be. We have set a very ambitious goal for 2010. By December of 2010, we would like to have 5000 law enforcement officers signed up on the STA system. That is ambitious, but it is doable. I'd like to ask your help in passing STA information along to your fellow detectives, patrol officers, analysts, and supervisors, urging them to sign up. As you know, signing up and using STA is FREE of charge. Even if you are not having metal thefts in your own jurisdiction, it's not a bad idea to keep up with what is going on around your region. Commodities prices are inching up again, and so are metal thefts. This is our opportunity to stay proactive. There is one other thing I'd like to point out. Most officers/detectives these days have MDTs, and most have internet capability. An officer/detective can actually be on scene at a metal theft, and if registered, could issue an alert from the front seat of their patrol car. In most cases, time is of the essence in getting an alert out. The bad guys almost immediately try to get rid of their stolen goods. The sooner the recyclers know about your stolen material, the better chance of recovery.

## Success Story

This is the first of several success stories that I want to share with all of you. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a theft report from a construction company was filed with Brookfield, Connecticut Police Department. The theft was approximately 3000 pounds of 8" stainless steel pipe, in lengths of 4 to 5 feet. This material was used to construct "terrorist" barricades surrounding the new Yankee Stadium. The approximate value of the stolen material was \$2000 to \$3000. Detective Steven Coelho of the Brookfield Police Department was the case officer. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, Detective Coelho issued an alert Through ScrapTheftAlert.com which was broadcast immediately. On July 16<sup>th</sup>, Detective Coelho received a phone call Jim Murphy of LaJoie's Auto and Scrap Recycling in Norwalk, Connecticut. Mr. Murphy told Detective Coelho that two individuals had come into his facility and presented material that matched the description of the stolen property listed in Detective Coelho's alert. Detective Coelho and the victim then went to the facility, and the victim positively identified the property as belonging to him. Jim Murphy also provided Detective Coelho with the DL information of the suspect that sold the property. Two suspects (brothers) were arrested in this case, and almost half of the property was recovered.

This is a great example of how ScrapTheftAlert.com can work for you. Without this information having been broadcast, and without giving the recyclers a "heads up," this case may not have been cleared. If the recyclers know what to look for, in many cases they can find your stolen material. On behalf of ISRI, I'd like to extend my congratulations to Detective Coelho from the Brookfield Police Department for taking the time to issue the alert, and to Jim Murphy of LaJoie's Auto and Scrap Recycling for their diligence and being "on the ball." **NICE JOB TO BOTH OF YOU!**

I will put another success story in the next edition. Please feel free to contact me with any feedback or suggestions for future editions. If any more of you have a success story, please let me know. They will appear in future editions of BOLO News. I'd like to keep your law enforcement colleagues around the country informed on how the system is working for you.