



SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP BOLO NEWS



Institute of
Scrap Recycling
Industries, Inc.

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Welcome to the third edition of BOLO News. It's hard to believe that we are in the middle of the holiday season. The next couple of weeks are going to be hectic for all of us, and I am well aware of what law enforcement officers face during the holidays. With that in mind, let's get started.

Scrap Theft Alert

Thanks to all of you for your efforts to improve descriptions of stolen property in recent alerts. It really helps yard workers when they have that extra information. The key to a good written description is easy: Put yourself in the recycler's place. Would you be able to locate your stolen property among thousands of pounds of other material based on the description that you give? I understand that, in a lot of cases, a detailed description is not possible, but any information you can provide is helpful. Photos are the best help of all. If you have photos of similar material available, take the time to upload them in your alerts. The recyclers love them and they really assist them in locating your material.

How Successful is ScrapTheftAlert.com?

I get that question more and more everyday – from reporters, cops, and recyclers wanting to know how often cases are solved using ScrapTheftAlert.com. Too often, we don't hear about the successes unless we happen upon a news story. That's why it's important for you to let us know when a case is moved along by a tip received from recyclers. A lot of factors play into success, including the timeliness of the report, the accuracy of the description, the uniqueness of the material stolen and, occasionally, the stupidity of the criminal who stole it. But we do know this system can help when we're all using it properly.

Statistics

As of today, there have been nearly 625 alerts issued through Scrap Theft Alert this year. There are approximately 6369 registrants, and about 985 law enforcement officers registered. I have mentioned in the past that metal thefts are on the rise. As an example, on November 19th, there were almost 25 theft alerts issued. Just for that day. My goal for 2010 is to have another 1500-2000 law enforcement officers signed up for Scrap Theft Alert.com. Obviously, the more folks we have signed up on the system, the more effective it will be. This is a very ambitious goal, and I could really use your help. If you have any co-workers (detectives, supervisors, patrol officers) who have not signed up for Scrap Theft Alert.com, please encourage them to do so. As you all know, the system is free, and it only takes a couple of minutes to sign up. As a detective, I sure got caught with my pants down the last time metal theft went through the roof, as I'm sure many of you did, too. We are really trying to be proactive and curb the material theft problem before it becomes a very big problem. Anything you can do to help me out would be much appreciated.

Best Wishes for Happy Holidays and a Safe New Year!

I know that in the middle of this holiday season, most of you are running yourselves ragged. I am very familiar with that. Remember that the most important thing is for you all to return home to your loved ones at the end of your duty shift. From ISRI and from me, we would like to wish you all a joyful holiday season and BE SAFE.