



SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP BOLO NEWS



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

ScrapTheftAlert.com

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Welcome to the sixth edition of BOLO News. Once again, we are all smack in the middle of the holiday season, and I know things are hopping, for all of us. There has been a bit of a delay since the last edition, and my apologies for that. I'll try to cover a lot in this edition. So let's get started.

SCRAP THEFT ALERT STATISTICS

I communicate with LEOs from around the country almost daily, either by phone or email. Many officers are curious as to how many other LEOs are signed up to Scrap Theft Alert and how many alert have been issued. I'll throw some numbers at you and you can then get an idea how ScrapTheftAlert is being utilized.

Number of alerts Issued in 2009: 643

Number of alerts Issued in 2010 to date: 2012

Total number of alerts issued to date: 2655

Number of registrants on Scrap Theft Alert to date: 9068

Number of LEOs signed on to Scrap Theft Alert to date: 2446

Number of LEOs signed up in 2009: 1012

Number of LEOs signed up in 2010 to date: 1434

There are LEOs from 45 states and Washington DC, and from six Canadian provinces signed up for Scrap Theft Alert. You can see that Scrap Theft Alert usage has increased significantly this year as opposed to last year.

If you have a question about Scrap Theft Alert or if you have a problem, you can contact me at garybush@isri.org or call my office which is located in Florida at 352-433-2477. When you send an email, there is definitely someone at the other end, namely me. I'll get an answer for you as soon as I can.

HINTS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE ALERTS

Since so many new LEOs have signed up over the past twelve months, I'm going to repeat a few hints to help LEOs that post alerts.

First, **make sure you are logged into www.scraptheftalert.com** and not to www.isri.org. That happens enough to make it worth a mention.

Title your report with exactly what was stolen, such as "Theft of a Brass Bell," or "Theft of Utility-Grade Copper Wire."

Use the Report Type box to categorize reports. If you are reporting missing material, use "Reporting a Theft." If you are seeking the owner of materials already located, use "Reporting Suspicious Activity."

You should enter **the date and approximate time of the theft if known**. If not, use the date the theft was reported.

Be specific and complete in describing the material stolen. Would you, a fellow officer, or a recycler be able to locate and identify the material based solely on your description? Provide as much detail as possible, including describing any identifying marks on the material. Photos of this or similar material can be very helpful.

Please **do not include suspect/arrestee information** in your alerts. For liability reasons, ISRI cannot publish these names. Other suspect information such as descriptions, vehicle/license plate info, etc. should be placed in the "Additional Information" box in the report.

Make it easy for recyclers to contact you if they have information. **Give complete contact information**.

Once you've completed the report, **click Submit JUST ONCE**. The system may churn for a moment, but your report has been submitted. If you click more than once, the system will attempt to broadcast the report multiple times, which clogs the system and reduces the effectiveness of the whole system.

Alerts are only viewable for 14 days after submission. At the end of 14 days, the alert will not be viewable, however, if you request it, I can rebroadcast your alert. This was done to keep only the newest alerts on the front page so the information stays fresh. If you need information on past alerts, please contact me at garybush@isri.org.

COMING TO SCRAP THEFT ALERT

In the near future, you may start seeing some theft alerts from your region that involves plastic theft. Metal theft still gets most of the headlines, but thefts of plastic products are on the rise as well. These would include milk crates, bread racks, and similar items. There have been tens of millions of dollars of plastic thefts annually. There are many companies that recycle plastic as well as metal. Scrap Theft Alert is a way for these companies to notify recyclers/law enforcement about these thefts.

If any of you have any success stories to share, please send them to me so that I can include them in upcoming editions. Some of you have taken the time to send some, and it is much appreciated. Success stories will return in the next issue.

BEST WISHES A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR. BE SAFE!