



SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP BOLO NEWS



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ScrapTheftAlert.com

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Welcome to the seventh edition of BOLO News. I guess you don't need me to tell you all that metal thefts have been going through the roof lately. For what it's worth...those of you being plagued with metal thefts, it is occurring all over the country, in the metro areas and in the rural areas. ScrapTheftAlert has been extremely busy of late, and currently has 10380 registrants. Out of those, 3261 are LEOs. Let's get started.

Have Scrap Metal Thieves Met Their Match?

It never hurts to get good press. Check out this article from the May 6 edition of Metal Miner, a trade publication for the Global Metals Markets: <http://agmetalmminer.com/2011/05/06/have-scrap-metal-thieves-met-their-match/>

Upcoming Changes to ScrapTheftAlert

ScrapTheftAlert is a useful tool as long as the information being broadcast is fresh, descriptive, and complete. Frankly, scrap yard operators are just as busy as you these days since high prices bring in many more times as much legitimate material as stolen material to be sold as scrap. It's important to you and to them that the alerts be high-quality. Here are some things we will implement to help achieve this goal:

1. **TIMELINESS.** Typically, if a theft is over 14 days old from the current date, it will not be broadcast. Few thieves will hold on to material for that long. The odds of identifying material that old are very low. **EXCEPTION:** If the theft is of an extremely high dollar value, or if the stolen item is a very unique or easily identifiable item, or if there are any other extenuating circumstances, submit the alert and a decision will be made whether or not to broadcast it.
2. **DESCRIPTIVENESS.** If an alert comes in with insufficient description (20 feet of copper wire stolen two weeks ago, as an example) we cannot broadcast. The material will simply never be identifiable with a generic and incomplete description. Ask yourself this question; could you go into a scrapyards and locate your material based on the description that you provide on your alert? If not, then we encourage you to save this tool for use in better cases. Always be as descriptive as possible on the stolen property.
3. **COMPLETENESS.** If there is no law enforcement contact information on the alert, it will not be broadcast. This is mostly directed to other stakeholders who submit reports rather than the registered LEOs. Our goal here is not only to identify the material but to help stop the thieves who commit these crimes. We must require that the theft be reported to law enforcement and that law enforcement be the point of contact if the item is located.

HINT: Try to use photos with your alerts as much as possible. Photos are a great tool for helping the recyclers in locating your material. Up to 4 photos can be uploaded for each alert. They must be 2 megs or less each, in a jpeg format. When uploading photos, check the name of each photo. The system will not accept symbols (!@#_*) that appear in the photo name. I suggest

that you rename the photo prior to upload. (i.e., photo1.jpg, photo2.jpg)

Alerts are viewable for 14 days after broadcast. If you wish to have an alert re-broadcast, contact me. If you need to see an older alert, again, let me know and I can get it for you.

Other Changes

ScrapTheftAlert will soon be getting a new look, although it will operate the same as before. The default radius for alert broadcast is 100 miles. I now have the ability to increase or decrease the radius as needed. In large metro areas, 100 miles will generally give plenty of coverage. In rural or remote areas, sometimes 100 miles is not enough. Prior to broadcast, I usually increase the broadcast radius as needed on these alerts. Additionally, when you submit your alerts, you will notice a box at the bottom for "special handling." You can use this to request a radius increase/decrease for that particular alert.

If you have any questions or problems with ScrapTheftAlert, please feel free to contact me at my office in Florida. Because of my travel schedule, email is probably the easiest way to contact.

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Success Story

On 03/06/11, Supervisor Eric Hutchinson from the Kent County Sheriff's Office in Grand Rapids, Michigan, issued a theft alert for four bronze statues depicting children in various activities. They were valued in excess of \$40,000.00. Louis Padnos Iron and Metal received the theft alert, and immediately sent them to all of their facilities in Michigan. In the meantime, one of the Padnos Companies, Burton Street Recycling in Grand Rapids, had received one of the statues prior to receiving the theft alert. Because of its unusual nature, the statue was put aside. Upon receiving the alert, Burton Street Recycling immediately contacted the Kent County Sheriff's Office. Some of the property was recovered and arrests are imminent on this case. Congratulations to Eric Hutchinson of the Kent County Sheriff's Office and the Louis Padnos Iron and Metal companies, specifically Burton Street Recycling. **Nice job to all!**

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