

Welcome to this edition of BOLO News. BOLO News is a monthly newsletter for law enforcement to share success stories and other information that may be pertinent in the ongoing fight against metals theft.

From Faxnet to ScrapTheftAlert.com

Honest scrap recyclers in general and ISRI members especially, have been proactive in the fight against metals theft. Metals theft is certainly not a new issue and neither are the cooperative efforts of ISRI members to work with law enforcement and community leaders. Well before copper prices spiked to more than \$4/lb. in 2010-11 and copper theft became big news, ISRI members initiated a program which would eventually evolve into the current ScrapTheftAlert.com (STA) system.

In 1993, when prices hovered near the \$1/lb. mark, recyclers recognized the need to establish expedient communication with law enforcement in order to identify stolen materials. Nondescript stolen metals are difficult to identify, especially when a recycler is unaware of recent thefts. Recyclers realized direct and speedy theft notifications could help cut down on the problem. Using the best technology at the time, recyclers hit on the idea of regional fax networks; later to become known as Faxnet. With Faxnet, police notified area recyclers of scrap thefts and provided descriptions of the stolen material. Police were able to scan documents and transmit information to a list of stored fax numbers. In some cases, ISRI members even purchased fax machines for local police departments in order to further the acceptance of the program.

As technology advanced, so too did the industry's alert system. Today, STA is accessible by anyone with access to the Internet, is free and easy to use, and covers the entire United States and Canada. For more information view the [STA brochure](#) online.

Cell Tower Batteries

As reported in the April BOLO News, theft of cell tower back-up batteries continues to be a problem. These batteries can cost as much as \$500 each to replace. Nearly one-third of all STA alerts broadcast in May were for cell tower batteries. Law enforcement is reminded that thieves not only target electrical substations and cell tower sites for copper cable, but also for batteries.

ISRI Outreach to Law Enforcement

As a reminder, on June 26 & 27, ISRI representatives will be exhibiting at the [National Sheriffs' Association Annual Conference](#) in Minneapolis, MN. If you are able to attend this event, please stop by the ISRI booth to learn about ScrapTheftAlert.com and other resources provided by the industry to fight metals theft.

ScrapTheftAlert.com Success Story



Reader Poll

Have you ever investigated the theft of cell tower or electrical substation back-up batteries?

VOTE

Last month we asked readers
Have you ever shut down a rogue recycling operation?

Here are the results:

No	60%
Yes	40%

In the News

[Alton Police Use Deer Cameras to Help Catch Thieves](#)
KSDK.com, June 9, 2016

[State Task Force Helping Combat Metal Theft on Farms](#)
WSFA.com, June 8, 2016

On May 18, 2016, the Chesterfield Township (MI) Police Department issued an alert for the theft of a 10 foot boat hoist valued at approximately \$3,000. Although the hoist was cut into unrecognizable pieces before being sold at an area recycler, the alert and the cooperation of the recycler, assisted detectives in tying up loose ends of the investigation resulting in two arrests.

[Illinois Task Force Rattled by Spike in Metal Thefts](#)
World News Report, June 7, 2016

Questions?



Contact ISRI Director of Law Enforcement Outreach [Brady Mills](#) or call (202) 662-8526 for more information.



Voice of the Recycling Industry

1615 L Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036-5610
isri@isri.org | (202) 662-8500

Institute of
Scrap Recycling
Industries, Inc.

You are receiving this message because you signed up to receive newsletters from isri.org. Feel free to reply if you have any questions.

