

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

Scrap Yards are Targets for Thieves Too

As has been previously written in this newsletter, the abundance of copper used in building and manufacturing can often times lead to a crime of opportunity, especially where copper is stored in large quantities. This of course includes metal recycling yards. But, this should not be misconstrued to mean all thefts are a spur of the moment event at unsecured locations. The incident which follows illustrates not only the brazen attitudes of criminals but also suggests some degree of surveillance and planning went into the theft.

The regional safety manager for an ISRI member recycler in Milwaukee, provided information on a theft that occurred in late January. The yard was operational at approximately 6 a.m. when six males parked on a public street in proximity to where the yard stores rolled copper. Five of the men exited the vehicle with the driver remaining in the vehicle. One of the five lifted part of the fence, allowing the others to crawl under. They did not seem to be concerned about being noticed, grabbed as much copper as they could carry and headed back to their vehicle. At this point, a security officer pulled his vehicle in front of the thieves' vehicle, blocking their way. The thieves then fled on foot. Police arrived and identified the vehicle as stolen. In addition to the vehicle, some of the copper was also recovered. The thieves were not disguised and fortunately did not brandish any weapons; no one was injured.

Without an arrest and confession, it cannot be determined if the vehicle was stolen solely for the commission of this theft. It could possibly have been used in a series of crimes. What is known is that by parking on the street, the thieves were closer to the copper than if they had driven into the yard. This would seem to indicate some reconnaissance work to know the location of the copper and that it was not bundled, making it easier to carry.

ISRI members have been encouraged to pay attention to their neighborhood surroundings for those individuals that may be lurking outside. Law enforcement is reminded that recyclers are also victims of theft and yards often store large quantities of valuable materials.

ScrapTheftAlert Success Story

On November 30, 2014, in Tampa, FL, police issued a [ScrapTheftAlert](http://ScrapTheftAlert.com) for the theft of eight truck batteries stolen from delivery trucks of a local business. The batteries were valued at approximately \$1,600. Subsequent to the alert broadcast, an employee of Scrap King Recycling in Tampa, recognized the thieves



Reader Poll

Have you ever investigated a theft or burglary occurring at a scrap recycling yard?

- A.) Yes
- B.) No
- C.) Not Sure

VOTE

Last month we asked readers, "Does your municipality have a coalition of community members, to include recyclers, to address the issue of metals theft?"

Here are the results:

No	64%
Yes	27%
Unsure	9%

based on the alert and police were contacted. Although none of the batteries were recovered, police were able to make three arrests. Beyond the value of the batteries, this case also illustrates the additional loss of revenue as the trucks sat idle until replacement batteries were installed.

In the News

[Tulsa Apartment Complex Offers Reward to Find Copper Thief Who Destroyed Dozens of Air Conditioners](#)

KJRH.com, March 8, 2015

[Copper Theft Strikes Local High School, Hits Close to Campus](#)

DeltaCollegian.net, March 6, 2015

[Ankle Monitor Ties Man to Scrap Metal Theft](#)

DailyCommercial.com, March 5, 2015

[Road Warrior: Looters Busy on Route 19](#)

NorthJersey.com, March 3, 2015

Questions?

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



Voice of the Recycling Industry

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