

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.

Recyclers Salute Law Enforcement Partners During National Police Week

Recyclers around the nation are paying tribute to the men and women of law enforcement during National Police Week. ISRI and its members are proud to work with and support all law enforcement in an effort to deter metals theft, and to help catch and prosecute criminals when crimes do occur. Metals theft is a serious crime, which poses many dangers for responding officers, particularly at public utilities where it can expose live wires risking electrocution as well as explosions. We want every officer to return home safely to their families after each shift.

Keep the Focus on Thieves

Recently, a local television news program in Seattle conducted a sting on area scrap recyclers. A reporter gathered scrap metal pieces from the station's building and visited four local scrap recycling businesses.

According to the report, three of the four recyclers did everything by the book, documenting the seller's information and his vehicle information, and paying amounts over \$30 by check as required by Washington state law. The fourth paid the entire amount in cash, exceeding the lawful \$30 limit. (Granted, the owner should be aware of the state statute.) The station's report mentioned thieves of scrap metal, but the focus of the story was to answer the question - "But who is buying it?"

In this case the scrap metal was not stolen so the answer to that question is simple – recyclers buy it, it is what they do. It is what they have been doing for over 100 years. Not until prices for copper spiked in the mid-2000's and thieves saw potential for illicit money did anyone take notice of the industry. However, the focus should be on the thieves not the recyclers, the vast majority of which are honest business people. This is not to say there are no rogue dealers out there - there are. When identified, they should also answer to the law.

The news piece does bring to light an issue with stolen scrap metal and that is in the difficulty of identification. As stated, the news room scrap was not stolen, but what if it was? These were nondescript pieces of wire and pipe. This is why honest recyclers thoroughly document all seller information as mandated and in many states report purchases electronically as required, allowing law enforcement access to seller information. It is also why ISRI members support ScrapTheftAlert.com, the online alert system.



Reader Poll

Are you aware of the scrap metal business reporting requirements in your state?

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

VOTE

Last month we asked readers, "**Will you be attending any of the national law enforcement events cited in this edition of BOLO News?**"

Here are the results:

No	77%
Yes	15%
Not Sure	8%

Washington is one of six states requiring scrap metal businesses to sign up for and receive alerts identifying stolen property from the ScrapTheftAlert.com system. This system is not paid for with tax dollars. It is supported solely by ISRI members and made available to businesses, recyclers, and law enforcement at no cost. ISRI members and other honest recyclers work with law enforcement on a daily basis to identify stolen material and thieves. It is important for all stakeholders working to combat metals theft to stay focused on the problem – thieves. Cooperation is key.



Success Story

One arrest was made and \$2,000 worth of stolen stainless steel tanks, stolen from the manufacturer, was recovered based on an alert issued on April 23, 2015, by the Cuyahoga Falls, OH, Police Department. A recycler based outside of Cleveland recognized the stolen material by the submitted alert and contacted local police. The officer responsible for submitting the alert advised that although he has been a registered user of ScrapTheftAlert.com for some time, this was the first time he submitted an alert.

In the News

[Copper Pipe Theft Caused Gas Leak, Explosion that Tore Apart Syracuse House](#)

Syracuse.com, May 7, 2015

[Preventing Theft and Vandalism at Recycling Facilities](#)

Recycling Product News, May 6, 2015

[The Link Chain: Inside the World of Copper Thefts - Why Law Enforcement Says They're a Safety Threat](#)

KSHB.com, May 5, 2015

Questions?

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



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