

Scrap Theft Bulletin

Provided by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries



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ScrapTheftAlert.com Continues to Grow

In 2014, when ISRI upgraded the ScrapTheftAlert.com (STA) system, there were 18,156 registered users. As of this writing there are over 23,000 users (including law enforcement officers), an increase of more than 4,800 total users. About mid-way through 2017, STA became available as a service provider on the [Regional Information Sharing Systems](#) (RISS) and the [Criminal Justice Information Services](#) (CJIS) networks. Availability on the RISS and CJIS networks played a major role in the increase of the number of law enforcement officers registered with STA. The number of law enforcement officers registering with the system more than doubled from 241 in 2016 to 627 in 2017. This trend seems to be continuing as 126 more officers have registered since the beginning of the year.

Currently, approximately 40 percent of all STA registered users are law enforcement. Corporate security, property and business owners, victims of metals theft, and recyclers make up the rest of users. The broad use of STA is what ISRI members had in mind when the system first went on-line in 2008. As has been written many times in this column, cooperation among all stakeholders is key to reducing metals theft. As [Success Stories](#) on the STA homepage indicate, the system works. Even alerts that do not directly generate a recovery or arrest help in communicating to users what materials are hot-ticket items in any given area. As the below *Success Story* indicates, an alert can generate collateral results.

Success Story

On November 27, 2017, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department broadcasted an alert for the theft of aluminum T-bar stock from a Compton business location, valued at approximately \$265,000. Although the alert was not directly responsible for the arrests in this case, the alert did aide investigators by prompting other businesses to provide surveillance video tying the suspect(s) to additional thefts.

Metals Theft Danger

Not all copper thefts are victimless crimes. In some cases first responders' lives are at risk. On December 20, 2017, KOLN in Lincoln, NE, reported Fire and Rescue were summoned to a residence due to high levels of gas discovered inside. From the report, it is possible the leak was the result of copper thieves.

Law Enforcement Outreach

ISRI will be exhibiting at the following law enforcement conferences. Please stop by the booth for information sharing on metals theft:

June 17-19, National Sheriffs Association, New Orleans, LA

July 22-23, FBI National Academy Associates, Quebec City, Canada

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October 7-9, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Orlando, FL