

Partnership to Combat Critical Infrastructure: Copper Theft

February 28, 2012

This webinar is focused on copper theft affecting critical infrastructure and designed for individuals interested in collaborating with public agencies and private-sector organizations to successfully investigate and prosecute copper thefts.

Using GoToWebinar

- Please turn on your computer speakers to listen to the audio.
- This webinar is being recorded and a copy will be available on the Safeguard Iowa Partnership website for future viewing.
- Feel free to submit your questions throughout the presentations, a facilitated Q&A will take place after all speakers have presented.
- To submit a question: enter in the question box on the right.

Sponsors of webinar



Topics

- Law enforcement & legal elements necessary for prosecution
- Case studies on copper theft and the impacts
 - ▣ MidAmerican Energy Company
 - ▣ Des Moines Police Department
- Profile of a copper theft criminal
- Preventing & reporting copper theft



LAW ENFORCEMENT & LEGAL ELEMENTS NECESSARY FOR PROSECUTION

Roxann Ryan, J.D., Ph.D., Senior Criminal Intelligence Analyst, Iowa
Department of Public Safety Division of Intelligence & Fusion Center

Metal thefts have increased

- High demand for metal in international markets results in high rate of return
 - Increased industrialization worldwide
 - Declining inventories

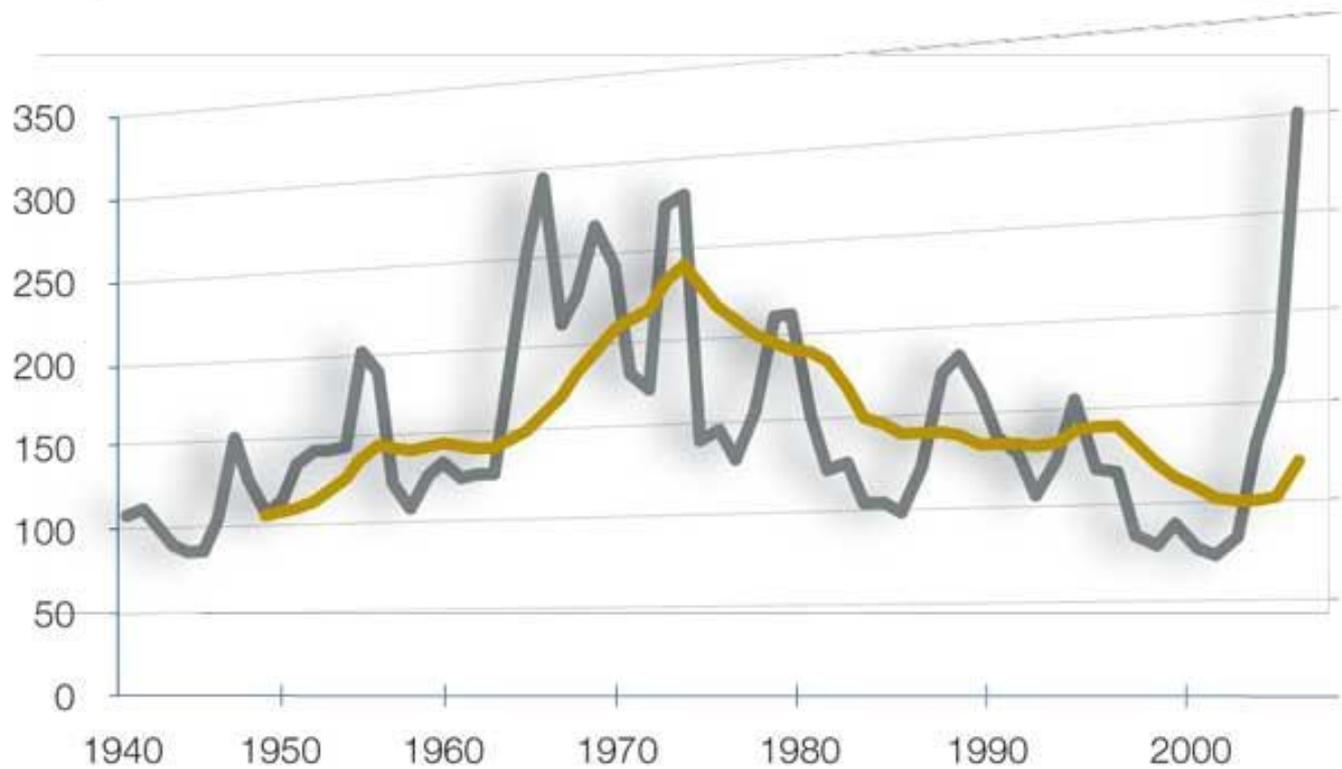
- Increased opportunities to target places and metal types
 - Increased building results in more opportunities
 - Foreclosures result in greater vulnerability

- Weak regulation of metal resale market

Copper Price Trends

LONG TERM REAL COPPER PRICES

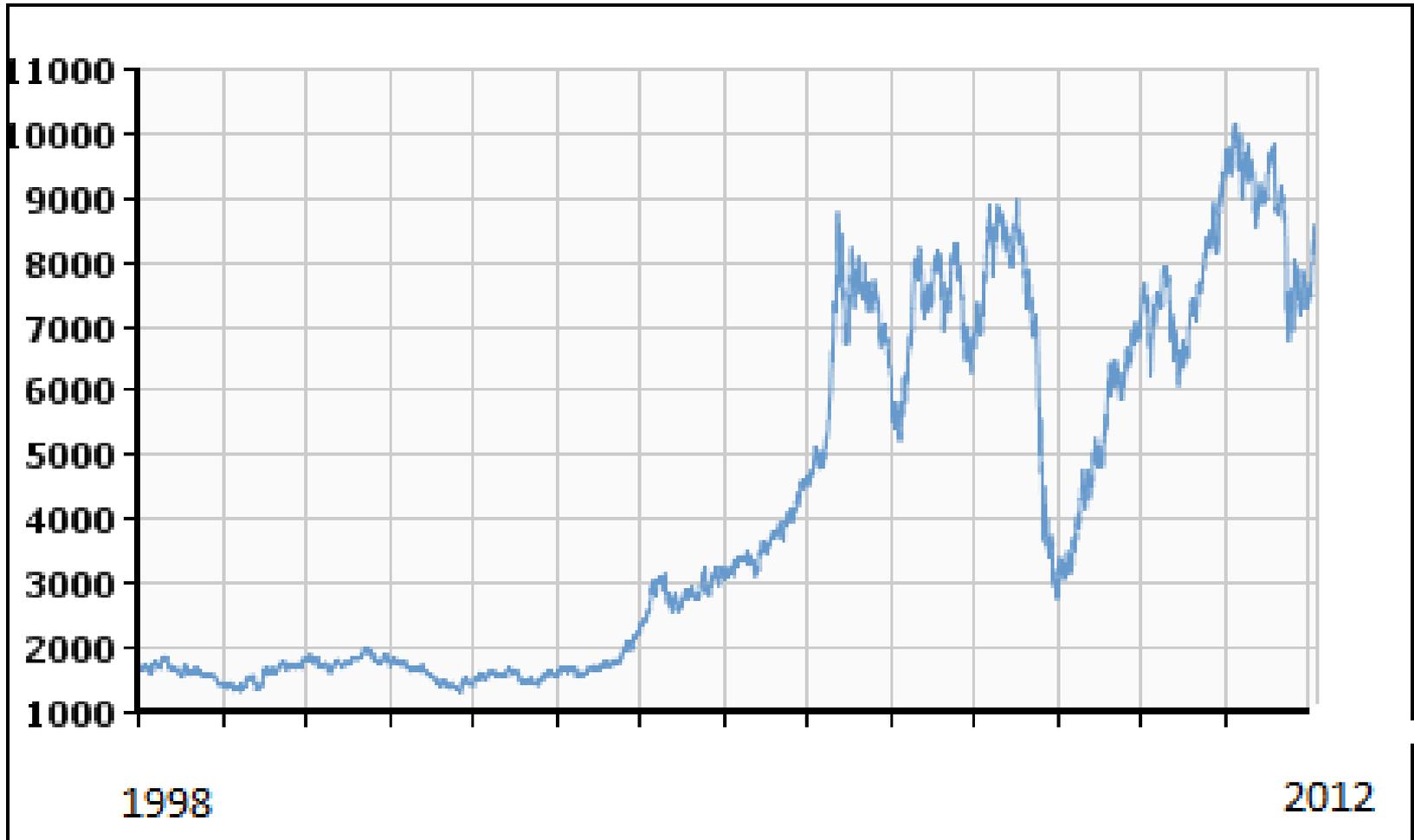
Real prices in 2004 US\$ | Prices in US\$/lb



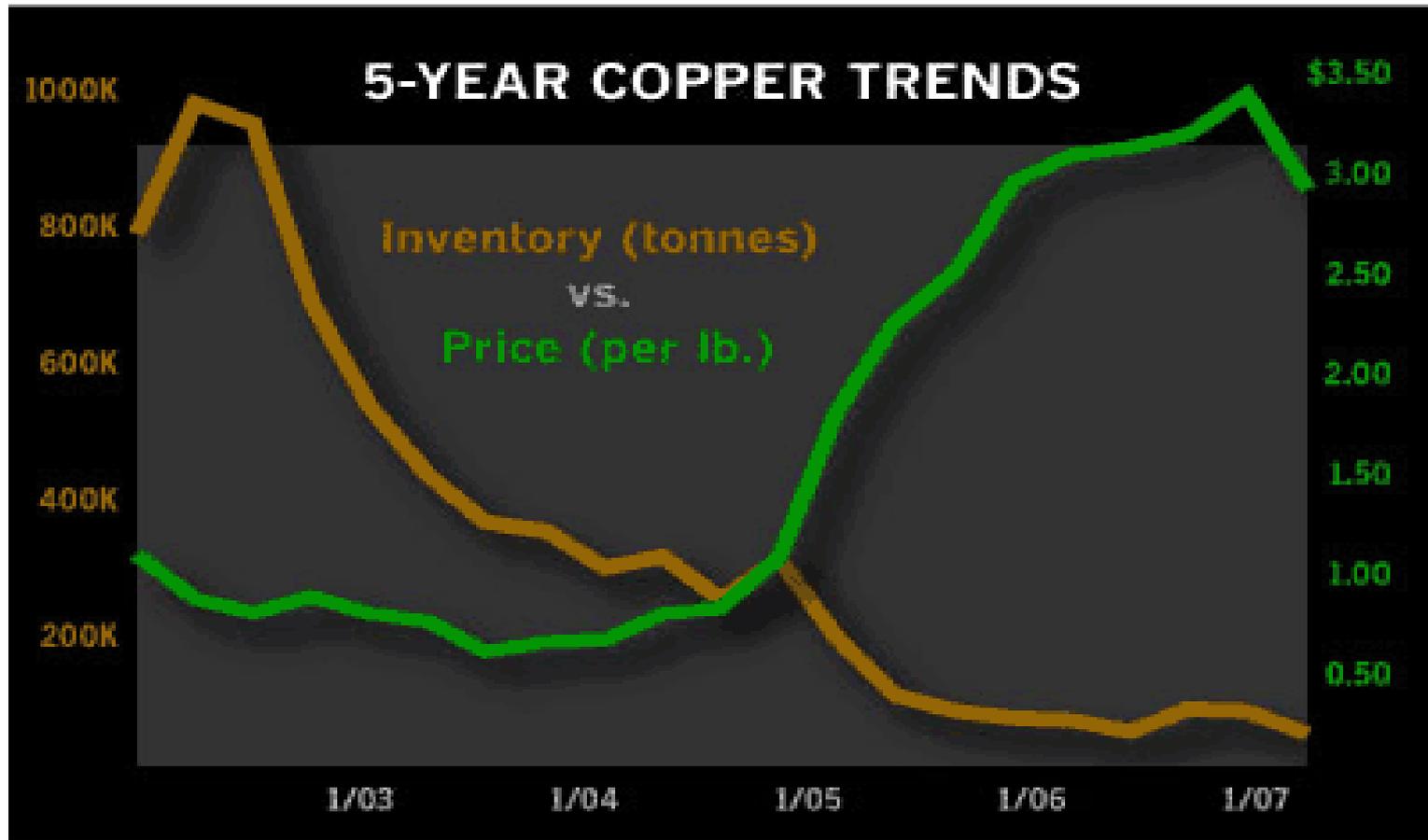
Data: CRU

■ 10 year moving average

Copper Price Trends: London Metal Exchange, 1998-2012

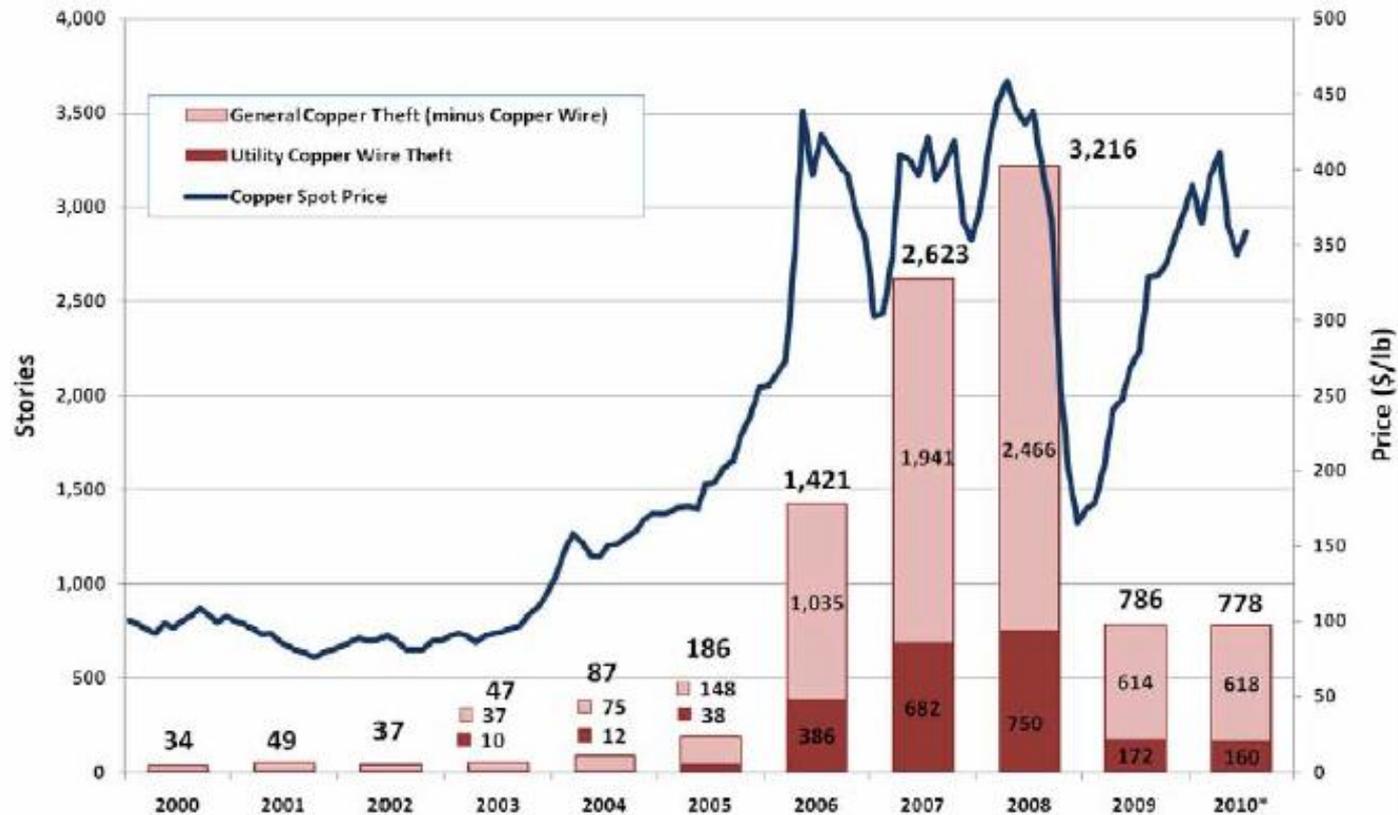


Price increases as inventory declines



Copper Price Trends

Figure ES-1. Copper Prices and Media Reports of Copper Theft

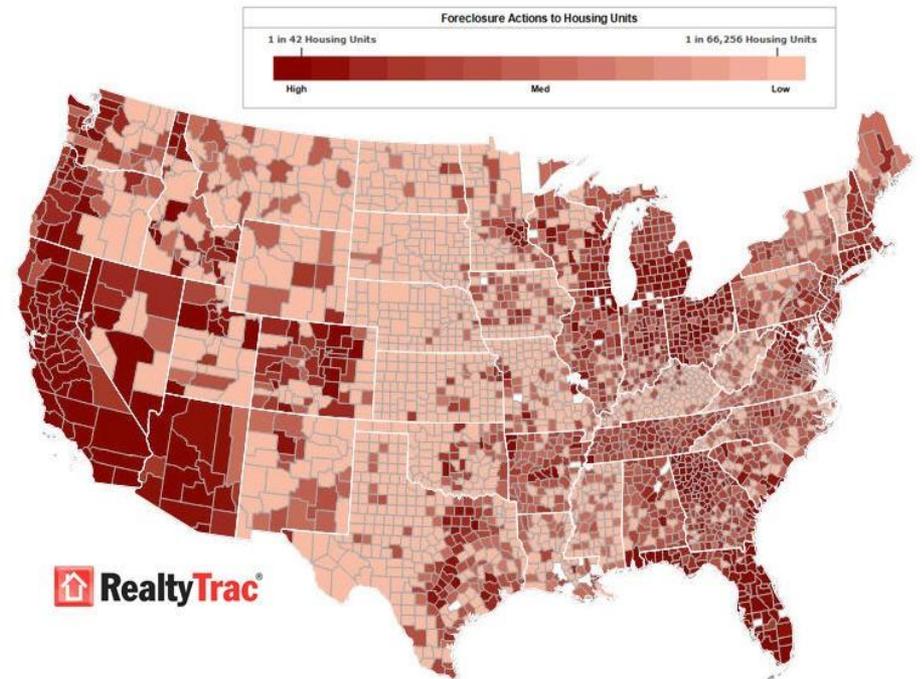


Note: 2010 data through August 31, 2010.

Sources: Derived from LexisNexis® search of U.S. newspapers and U.S. newswires.

Foreclosure Trends

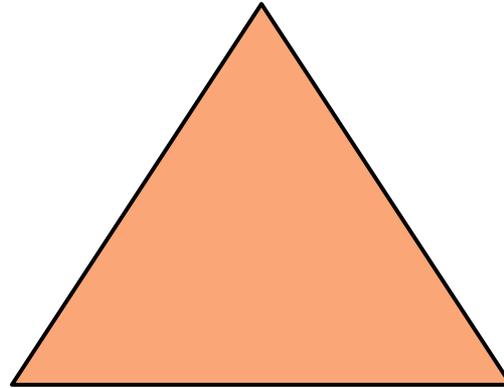
- Housing market crash
 - ▣ Copper piping stolen from empty homes
 - ▣ Houses burglarized are harder to sell



Problem-Oriented Policing: The Problem Analysis Triangle

Motivated Offenders

- Scrap dealers
- Drug addicts
- Opportunistic thieves
- Organized thieves



Targets

- Plumbing fixtures
- Any copper wiring/cables
- Air conditioners
- Utilities, electric substations
- Vehicle parts/catalytic converters
- Beer kegs
- Aluminum siding/gutters/roofs
- Bronze plaques/statues
- Utility hole covers

Places

- Vacant/foreclosed housing
- Construction sites
- Playgrounds
- Taverns
- Churches, cemeteries
- Scrap dealers

Consequences of Metal Theft

□ Economic impact

- replacing any metal components stolen
- repairing equipment damaged during the theft
- repairing operating systems damaged because of stolen wires
- reimbursing customers inconvenienced or facing their own economic losses
- covering revenue lost to the utility
- covering expenditure increases needed to cover loss and/or adding improved security

□ Physical danger

- Electrocution during theft of live wires
- Injuries to workers who do not realize thefts have occurred



"For every dollar stolen, it's \$10 to \$25 worth of repair," says Ralph Anderson, who helps utilities protect their property as a risk specialist at North American Electric Reliability

Problem-Oriented Policing: Stakeholders

- ❑ Scrap metal dealers
- ❑ Regulatory agencies
- ❑ Trade associations
- ❑ Utility companies
- ❑ Metal product manufacturers
- ❑ Property insurance companies
- ❑ Public works departments
- ❑ Abandoned/vacant-property owners



Responses to metal thefts

□ Collaborate among stakeholders

- Develop community plans
- Raise awareness among stakeholders

□ Target-hardening

- Crime prevention through environmental design
- Improve physical security
- Inventory control measures

□ Public awareness

- Public service announcements
- Rewards for tips

□ Increase offender risks

- Identify thieves & scrap metal sellers
- Track scrap metal transactions

□ Investigate & prosecute



Collaboration Efforts

**We Do Not Purchase Used
Or Damaged Kegs**



**All kegs
should be
returned
to your
local beer
wholesaler
or retailer.**

BEER KEG THEFT IS AGAINST THE LAW

Coordinated efforts of

*Beer Institute
Institute of Scrap Recycling
Brewer's Association*



**DO NOT BUY
BEER KEGS FOR SCRAP**

Beer kegs are the property of brewers and beer importers. No one else should buy or sell kegs for scrap. Accepting kegs is illegal.

Buying kegs for scrap drives up the price of beer. Damaged kegs can be reconditioned and reused when returned to their proper owners. The deposit paid on kegs by retailers and consumers is nowhere near the cost of keg replacement. Due to this discrepancy, the scrapping of beer kegs is costing large and small brewers and beer importers tens of millions of dollars each year.

If you have any information on violators,
please contact your local police, beer distributor,
or the Beer Institute at 800.379.BREW.

REFUSE TO PURCHASE ALL BEER KEGS



BEER INSTITUTE



Voice of the Recycling Industry

Institute of
Scrap Recycling
Industries, Inc.



Collaboration Efforts

Michael Lynch, CSO of the utility DTE Energy, is out in the field with one of his investigators looking for examples of torn-down power lines for a local TV news crew that wants to do a story on metal theft. But while Lynch is in the field, a DTE customer says that **thieves have stolen wires off the poles in front of his house**, cutting off the power. The customer adds that he thinks **the thieves are burning the wire nearby**, and he points the way.

The intelligence is sound. **Lynch finds a column of flames six feet high rising from a dilapidated cement slab.** Tending the fire is a thin man in brown pants, a hooded sweatshirt the color of shiraz and a gray baseball cap pulled low over his goateed face. Lynch is not normally in the field, so he doesn't think about the danger of confronting a man who could be high or armed, or both.



Collaboration Efforts



CSO Michael Lynch **rewards** a Detroit resident who had a **good tip on metal theft** activity in his area with **\$1,000**. It's the first such reward given in a program Lynch started. **Across the street: a burnt-out house,** the kind, Lynch says, where metal thieves, having sold their lot for drugs, might go to get high.

Popular Sources of Metal

- Utilities
- Irrigation systems
- Homes under construction
- Foreclosed homes
- Utility covers
- Catalytic converters
- Railroads



http://www.csoonline.com/special/slideshows/copper_theft/index

<http://www.governing.com/blogs/view/Manhole-Covers-are-the.html>

http://www.minnpost.com/stories/2008/04/10/1477/on_minneapolis_north_side_copper-theft_epidemic_adds_to_mounting_housing_problems

<http://www.railroad.net/forums/viewtopic.php?f=126&t=61459&start=0>

http://www.globalspec.com/industrial-directory/irrigation_controller

<http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/3119080/>

Prevention Efforts

- Surveillance cameras
- Use alternates that do not look like copper
- Tamper-resistant ground bar hardware
- Locking plates



<http://www.windpowerengineering.com/maintenance/safety/an-alternative-to-copper-based-grounding/>

http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/10_49/b4206066273601.htm



<http://www.prlcap.com/pr/143546/>

Prevention Efforts via PSAs: United Kingdom

YORKSHIRE POST



A man who suffered horrific injuries when he was hit by a 22,000 volt electric shock has warned others of the dangers of stealing copper cabling.

http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/at-a-glance/main-section/electrocuted_cable_thief_says_learn_from_my_mistakes_1_3457067

THE DRUM

TRY TO STEAL RAIL CABLES
AND YOU'LL GET BURNED...

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

- Most rail cables are live and can give a severe electric shock which will badly burn or even kill.
- New security and more police patrols mean more chance of being caught and facing prison.
- Copper cable isn't as valuable as you may think.

**CABLE THEFT -
IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK!**

METRO NEWS

<http://thedrum.co.uk/news/2011/11/22/poster-campaign-highlights-double-danger-stealing-copper-metro-lines>

Prevention/Investigation Efforts: ScrapTheftAlert.com

ScrapTheftAlert.com

ScrapTheftAlert.com
The Scrap Recycling Industry's Neighborhood Watch

February 5, 2012

Logout
Submit a Report
Search Reports
My Preferences

Browse All Theft Reports

6831 records

File	Status	Date	ZIP	State/City	Title
WI1202040300487600	caseOpen	2/4/2012	53520WI	BRODHEAD	Copper Wire and Brass Fittings
MI1202030445315124	caseOpen	2/3/2012	H8185MI	WESTLAND	Theft of 3 Alliance Semitruck Batteries & 2 Alum Covers
MI1202030126220671	caseOpen	2/3/2012	H8601MI	SAGINAW	Theft of Truck Batteries
NH1202030313054235	caseOpen	2/3/2012	D3101NH	MANCHESTER	Theft of a Copper/Brass Park Bench
MT120202048384354	caseOpen	2/2/2012	59901MT	KALISPELL	Theft of Copper Wire
WI1202030109191969	caseOpen	2/2/2012	07074WI	MOONACHE	Theft of 12 Propane Cylinders
CO1202031009283249	caseOpen	2/2/2012	80903CO	Colorado Springs	Theft of 150 Feet of MTW Black in Color Copper
QH1202031137192731	caseClosedWithResolution	2/2/2012	H4035QH	ELYRIA	Theft of Drain Grates
IL1202030955594069	caseOpen	2/2/2012	62523IL	DECATUR	Stolen Trailer loaded with Backhoe Bucket and c items
IL1202030200144069	caseOpen	2/2/2012	61874IL	SAVOY	Theft of Copper Pipe, Various Sizes
CO1202031007558141	caseOpen	2/2/2012	80903CO	Colorado Springs	Theft of 1,659 Feet of #4 Strand Copper Street
MI1202021013011229	caseOpen	2/2/2012	03301MI	CONCORD	Theft of Snow Plow Cutting Edges
CO120201123531878	caseOpen	2/1/2012	80110CO	Sheridan	Stolen Brass Fittings for top of Propane Tanks
WA1202020405160369	caseOpen	2/1/2012	98225WA	BELLINGHAM	Theft of a Fancy White Aluminum Garden Loves
MI120201018594481	caseOpen	2/1/2012	56472MN	PEQUOT LAKES	Theft of Baby Blue Camper
QH1202010414031819	caseOpen	2/1/2012	H4035QH	Elyria	Theft of Sewer Grates
MI1202011137151995	caseOpen	2/1/2012	H9090MI	SOUTH HAVEN	Theft of Boat Jack Stands
CO1202031010568893	caseOpen	2/1/2012	80903CO	Colorado Springs	Theft of Ford Motor Transmission
MO1202020344431951	caseOpen	2/1/2012	63139MO	PORT WALTON BEACH	Theft of Metal Grating and Specialized Steel
FL1202010850502727	caseOpen	2/1/2012	32547FL	PORT WALTON BEACH	Stolen A/C Copper and Compressor
NH1202010146172005	caseOpen	2/1/2012	03263NH	Pittsfield	Theft of Snow Plow Cutting Edges
FL1202030300333454	caseOpen	1/31/2012	32539FL	CRESTVIEW	Theft of Copper Wire and Tools
VA1202020402256727	caseOpen	1/31/2012	22960VA	Orange	Theft of Catalytic Converters
IL1201310105040393	caseOpen	1/31/2012	60463IL	Palos Heights	Stolen 15 Skids of class 1 can scrap - Briquette

Immediate
reporting
of thefts

ScrapTheftAlert.com

The Scrap Recycling Industry's Neighborhood Watch

February 5, 2012

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Institute of
Scrap Recy
Industries,



Institute of
Scrap Recycling
Industries, Inc.



Canadian Association of
Recycling Industries
Association Canadienne des
Industries du Recyclage

How To Use This Page

- Should you encounter a theft, please contact your local law enforcement and file a report with your local police department.
- Please provide the following information to your local law enforcement and to the ScrapTheftAlert.com website:
- If you are involved in the recovery of the material and/or in the arrest of a suspect, please report to your local law enforcement.
- It is always helpful to law enforcement to have as much information as possible, including details about the suspect and the location of the theft.

Challenges for Investigators

- Expertise in identifying copper parts
 - Investigators may not be able to identify copper parts as stolen
- Difficult to identify copper scrap as stolen
 - Thieves burn off the insulation on copper wire
 - Scrap pieces are fungible
- Multiple sources of copper are easily available
- Crimes occur in areas without surveillance
- Many options for disposing of stolen metal (gray markets)



http://www.csoonline.com/special/slideshows/copper_theft/index

Prosecution Challenges

- Witnesses
 - Eyewitnesses often not available
 - Identifying offender is key
 - Business/individual victim
 - What was taken
 - Surveillance cameras
 - Business records
 - Appropriate witness must lay foundation
 - Investigators
 - Detail the findings



Prosecution Challenges

- Admissible evidence
 - Identity of offender
 - Methods used for entry & theft
 - Intent
 - Motive
 - Not required to be proven
 - Jurors want to know “why”
 - Hearsay
 - Exceptions may apply
 - Demonstrative evidence
 - Need not be the actual item stolen



Prosecution Challenges

- Proof required
 - ▣ For each element
 - Acts
 - Intent
 - ▣ Standard: beyond a reasonable doubt

- ▣ “CSI Effect”
 - Jurors often expect conclusive proof (eg, high quality video)



Iowa Criminal Charges



□ Criminal Trespass

- entering or remaining on
- public utility property
- without authority or consent

□ Exceptions:

- Regulators (state or federal)
- Employees of utility, in the course of employment

□ Penalty:

■ D felony

- Up to 5 years
- \$7,500 fine
- Restitution

Iowa Code § 716.7(2)(f)

Criminal Trespass can occur anywhere – not limited to public utility property

Iowa Example: Trespass



Earlier this month, police were called to a strip mall at 2010 Southeast Delaware. Employees noticed the **air conditioning wasn't working** and climbed on the **roof** to check it out. They found someone had **stolen copper and aluminum coils** from several air conditioning units.

June 17, 2011



"They went right to the copper and the metals that were expensive in those units. They cut the power and drained some of the coolant before they started to dismantle all the units. So it was apparent that **they had some type of knowledge** with this equipment," says Lt. Ed Hamilton with the Ankeny Police Department.

Criminal Trespass occurs without entry to the building or occupied structure

Iowa Criminal Charges



□ Theft

- Public Utility Theft
 - Obtains gas, electricity or water from public utility, or cable television or telephone service
- By taking, misappropriation, deception, or exercising control
- Actual loss required (attempt is not a crime)

□ Penalties

- C felony (\$10,000+)
- D felony (\$1,000-10,000)
- Aggravated Misdemeanor (\$500-1,000)
- Serious Misdemeanor (\$200-500)
- Simple Misdemeanor (<\$200)

Iowa Code Ch. 714

Iowa Criminal Charges



Types of Theft

Public Utility Theft →



By Taking →



By Misappropriation →



By Deception →



By Exercising Control →



04/23/10 9:04:15p
Primary POS B

Iowa Example

Des Moines
May 28, 2009

Hundreds of grave markers used to honor veterans turned up missing or stolen over the Memorial Day weekend. Des Moines police believe the same thief or thieves went to **two cemeteries** and took the **bronze markers to sell as scrap metal**.

Last week, Gurwell noticed about **40** sites were missing markers. Later that same week, he replaced another **50**. "All these veterans need to be recognized and that's what the markers are for. If somebody steals it it's like sacrilege."

Theft



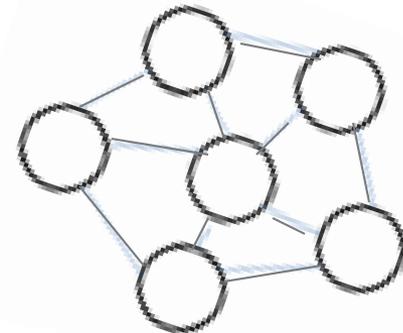
Across town at Glendale Cemetery, another **100** grave markers were reported missing.

Iowa Criminal Charges

- Ongoing Criminal Conduct
 - ▣ Knowingly conduct an enterprise via specified unlawful activity
 - An indictable offense committed for financial gain
 - On 2 or more occasions

- ▣ B felony
 - 25 years

Iowa Code Ch 706A



Iowa Example



[http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/sheriff/news/\\$10,000-copper-theft/](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/sheriff/news/$10,000-copper-theft/)

Polk County Sheriff's Detectives are investigating the theft of **over \$10,000.00 of copper wire** from a business in northern Polk County over the span of **four nights** in late April and early May.

Surveillance stills taken from security cameras on the property show what appears to be a white male with blond or gray hair. The suspect vehicle connected to this theft appears to be an older Dodge Dakota extended cab two-tone truck. The vehicle appearing behind the suspect is not the suspect vehicle.

Iowa Criminal Charges



□ Burglary

- Breaking or remaining on
- An occupied structure
- With intent to commit a felony, assault or theft



□ Occupied structure

- Large enough for a person to fit into it
- Need not be locked

□ Penalty

- Aggravated Misdemeanor to Class B Felony

Iowa Code Ch. 713

Iowa Example: Entry into Home

Real estate agent Rex Deckard said it's not just foreclosed homes that are getting hit by thieves.

In his own Four Mile Creek neighborhood, many empty **flood-damaged homes** have been stripped of copper and other metals. Deckard called police himself after thieves **broke through boarded doors and windows** to finish stripping the home next to his. "There's nothing left," he said.

"Empty homes are easy targets," says Des Moines Police Sgt. Chris Scott. **"All the thieves have to do is get a list of foreclosures, and they're off."**



Iowa Example: Entry into Business

Jan 06, 2012

A-Line EDS is offering a \$5,000 reward after thieves have been **hitting the business almost nightly this past month.**

Anne Bailey, the Sales Manager of A-Line EDS says copper thieves have been hitting the business for around month and costing the company big money.



A-Line EDS is a company in Waterloo that does what few in the Midwest can do. They **recycle power equipment** like transformers and get them back out on the market. One key component of a transformer is copper and it's a very valuable material.

"I would say **10's of thousands just in the damage they've done.** Not necessarily in the value of the components they've stolen, but just with the damage they've done and what we have had to put in to upgrade our already pretty extensive security here," said Bailey.

Iowa Example: Entry into Warehouse

Tuesday, July 05, 2011

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, June 29, **89 spools of copper wire** weighing 25 pounds each and a utility pickup truck were stolen from the **Butler County REC warehouse** in Allison.



To enter the warehouse yard, thieves **cut three holes in the chain-link fence** that surrounds the facility. Two of the holes were about 2' x 4' big and the third hole was large enough for a truck to drive through.

Once the thieves entered the yard, they gained access to the **main warehouse** with a crowbar.

Local Ordinances



- Local jurisdiction may adopt ordinance
 - ▣ Require salvage dealer to maintain records
 - Complete, accurate, legible
 - English language
 - Records maintained for at least a year
 - ▣ May require
 - Identity information
 - Vehicle information
 - Details of purchase
 - Value of material
 - From whom material came
 - To whom material was sold
- May issue licenses
 - Provide for suspension & revocation
 - Penalties for violations

Iowa Code § 714.27

Iowa Example

2/14/2012

A former U.S. Gypsum plant employee, who has been accused of stealing thousands of dollars worth of copper from the company, has admitted to the crime Monday.



In October, a manager from the U.S. Gypsum plant in Sperry told Des Moines County Sheriff's detectives Parrott, who is a former employee at the plant, had stolen \$7,000 worth of copper wire.

Detectives went to a local scrap yard and found out Parrott sold \$764 of heavy duty copper wire twice in September. Authorities said the woman's son has sold \$2,716 worth of copper wire at the same scrap yard since July.

During an interview with detectives in October, Parrott admitted to stealing the wire from the gypsum plant, adding most of the copper wire she and her son sold at the scrap yard came from the plant.

Homicides

□ Murder

- ▣ Premeditated (Life)
- ▣ Felony Murder (Life)
 - Forcible felony
- ▣ Second-degree Murder (50 years)
 - Malice required

□ Manslaughter

- ▣ Voluntary (C felony)
 - Irresistible passion
- ▣ Involuntary
 - Commit a public offense (D felony)
 - Non-public offense (Aggravated Misdemeanor)



Homicide: Proximate Cause

- Primary issue in a homicide is proximate cause
 - ▣ But for the defendant's actions, the result would not have occurred
 - ▣ Primary, but not the sole cause

- Significant issue in felony-murder and manslaughter



Iowa Example: Homicide

'A good man died a needless, pointless death'

Two months after blast, search continues for those responsible

By Travis Coleman
Journal staff writer

ONAWA, Iowa – Not a week goes by that Doug Thelander doesn't want to tell his dad, Earl, about something. Recently, he watched a movie on the raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima during World War II, something he thought the U.S. Coast Guard veteran would have enjoyed.

"I wanted to tell him how good it was," Doug said.

Two months ago today, on Aug. 28, Earl was injured by an explosion in the basement of one of his rental properties, which had been burglarized by

for those responsible for his death.

"No one is going to let this go away," Doug Thelander said.

Rising scrap metal prices – about \$3 a pound – drive the theft of copper from homes, businesses and construction sites. Al-



Thelander

been arrested in the thefts in

said. "I think

\$5,000 CASH REWARD

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of individual(s) responsible for copper theft at 20877 Gum Ave. in Onawa, IA, on Aug. 28, 2007, which resulted in an explosion and the subsequent death of Earl Thelander.

All information is confidential and may be made anonymously.

Reward may be claimed anonymously.

Phone 1-800-859-1414



Earl Thelander of Onawa, Iowa, became the nation's first innocent copper theft fatality. Thelander died Sept. 1, 2007, after **sustaining second- and third-degree burns over 80% of his body** in an explosion caused by copper thieves.

Thieves stole several feet of copper pipes from a house, but in the process they **cut the gas line**, leaving dangerous propane gas leaking into the basement.

When Earl returned to his house outside Sioux City, Iowa, he **plugged in a fan**. The next instant, the **gas ignited into a fireball**.

Earl Thelander survived an agonizing four days.

Restitution & Civil Damages

- Restitution
 - ▣ Can be ordered after a plea or guilty verdict
 - ▣ Equivalent to civil judgment
 - ▣ Can prove additional acts related to the charges brought
- Civil actions for damages
 - ▣ Lengthy process
 - ▣ Responsible party must have ability to pay



Unintended Consequences



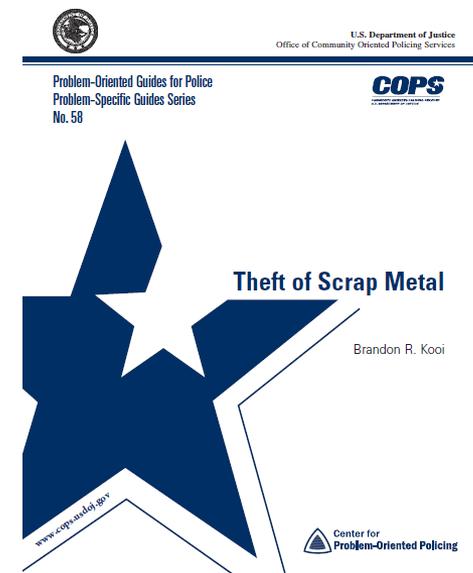
Inexperienced metal thieves will cut any wire they find. Pictured is an aborted theft; the cable was abandoned when the thief realized it was **fiber optic**, glass, not copper. Such mistakes have been known to **cut off digital phone and data service**.



In 2005, a man cut **copper grounding wires** (similar to the examples inset) at a substation in Oregon. When he bumped his head on a live line, **7200 volts** coursed through him, and he **burst into flames**.

Summary & Overview

- Prevention efforts are key
- Reporting incidents helps investigators
- Investigative challenges
- Criminal charges possible
- Restitution & civil damages





CASE STUDIES

ELECTRIC/GAS UTILITY

Frank DeLouis, MidAmerican Energy Company

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT

2011 Copper thefts

- ▣ Incidents – 16
 - Thefts – 10
 - Unsuccessful attempts – 6
- ▣ Arrests – 2
- ▣ Thefts progressed in complexity and value

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT

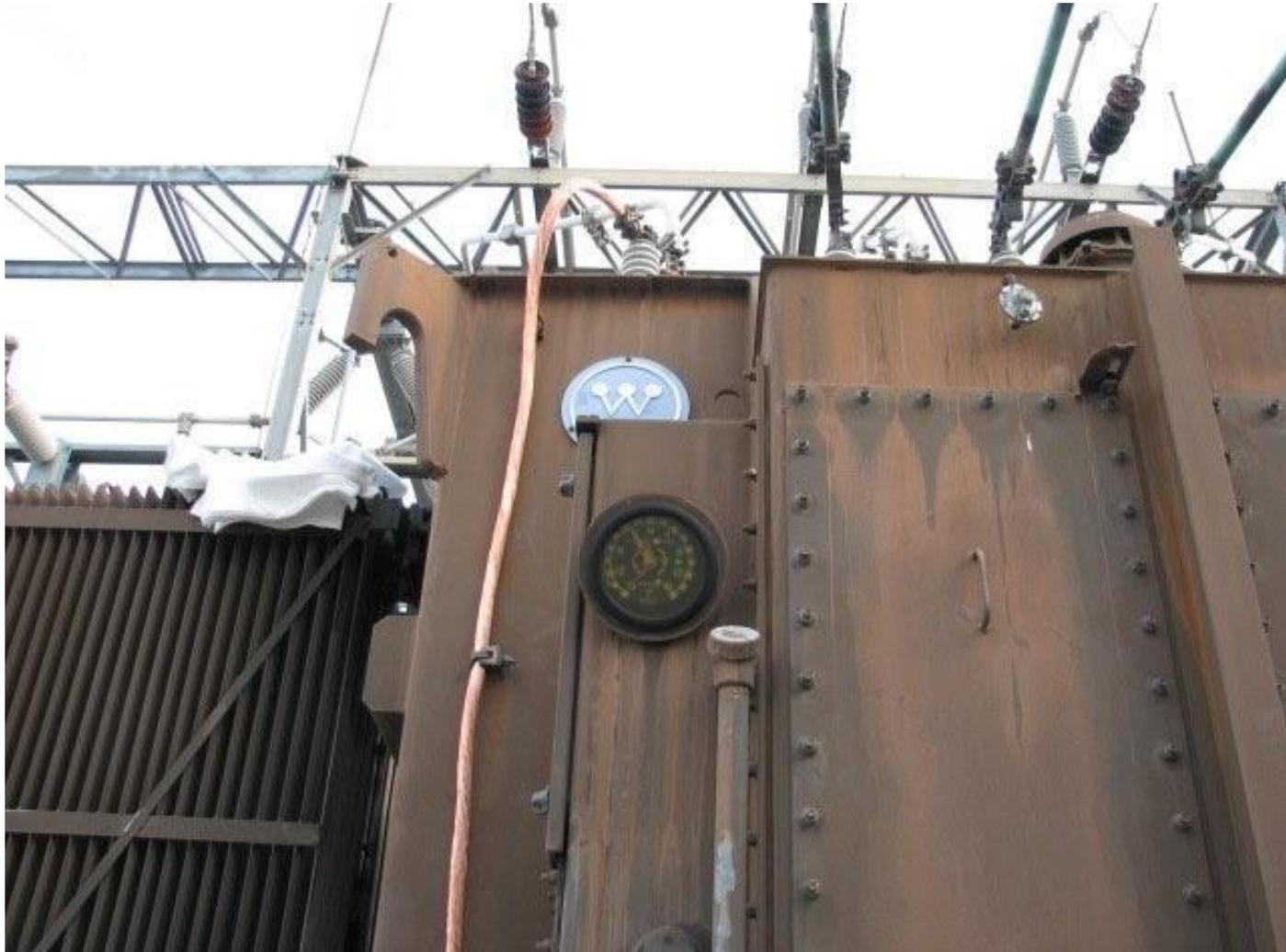
First stage

- ❑ Fence was cut or climbed
- ❑ Ground wires were cut on devices closest to where the fence was penetrated, or reels of material were stolen
- ❑ All grounds cut on a device resulted in sparking and equipment malfunction
- ❑ Losses of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per incident

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT

Second stage

- ❑ Fence was cut or climbed
- ❑ Only one ground was cut per device, resulting in no spark or equipment malfunction
- ❑ A large number of grounds were cut all over the yard
- ❑ Losses of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per incident

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT



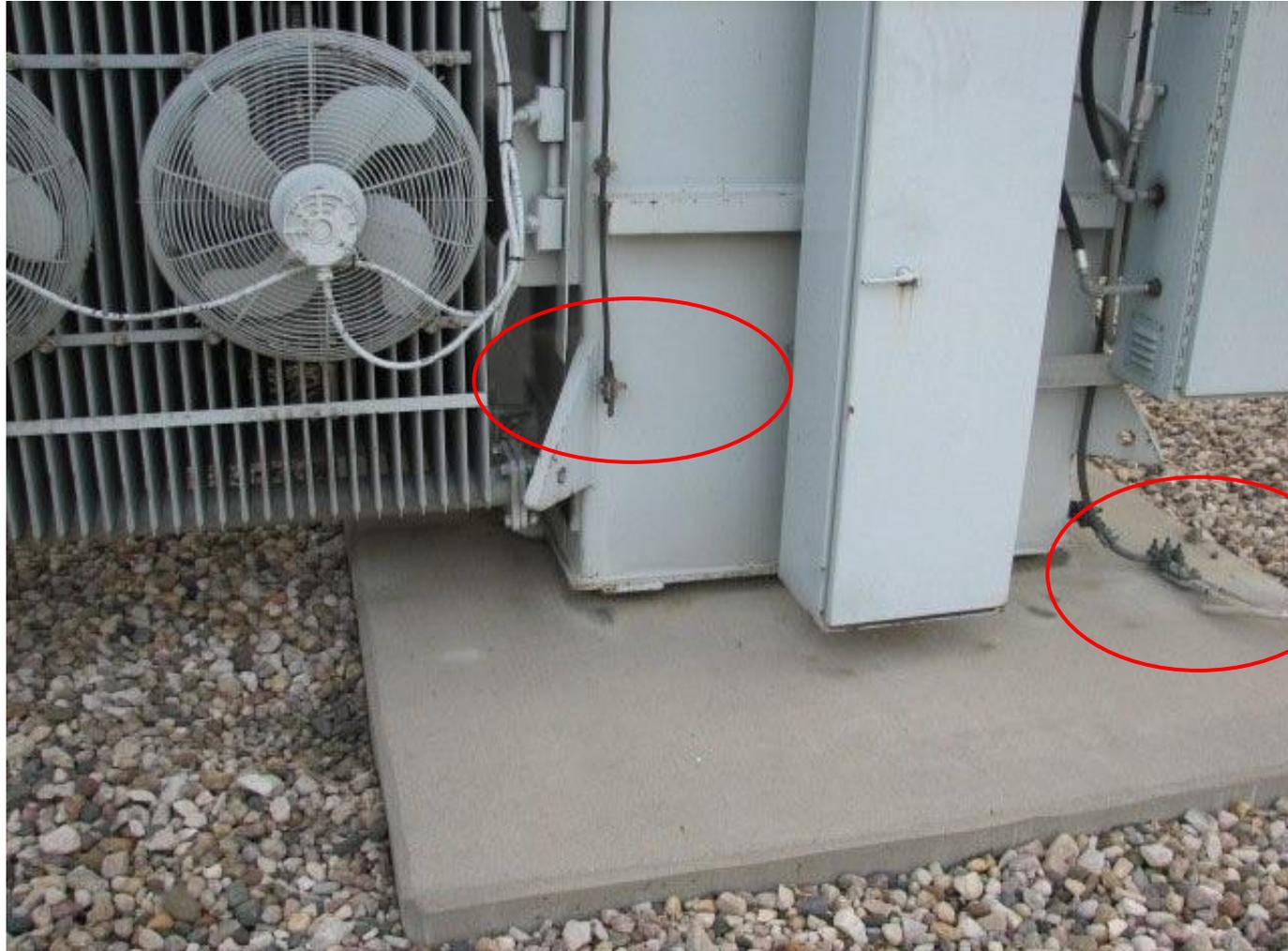
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT

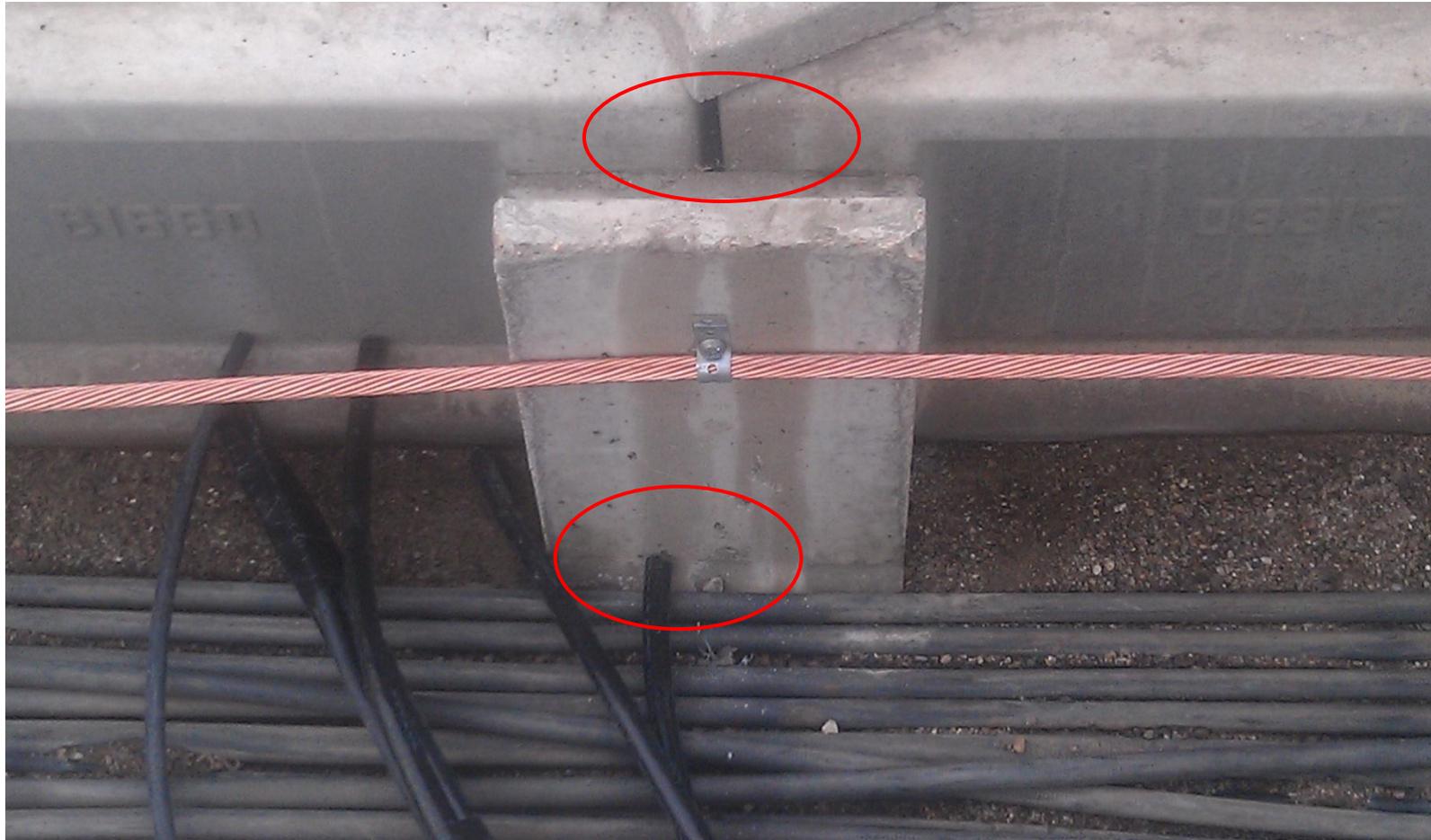
Third stage

- ❑ There were no visible signs of entry
- ❑ All grounds cut were in underground ducts, making it impossible to notice the theft until work was done on those ducts
- ❑ A large quantity of wire was stolen
- ❑ Losses of \$3,000 to \$5,000 per incident

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT



CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE COPPER THEFT

Conclusion

- ❑ Copper thefts are increasing in complexity and value
- ❑ Copper thefts affect critical infrastructure

CASE STUDIES

MUNICIPALITY

Sgt. Ralph Roth, Des Moines Police Department

City of Des Moines Code 30-246

- ❑ SEC 30-246 Salvage Dealers and Salvage Yards
- ❑ Modeled after Des Moines Police Department Pawn Shop ordinance
- ❑ Sec 30-254 Records
- ❑ Each salvage dealer shall keep complete , accurate, and legible records in the English language of all purchases and receipt of all junk, such records to include the following:
 - ❑ Name & Address
 - ❑ Date of Birth
 - ❑ Iowa drivers license number or Iowa Identification number, or social security number with photo identification
 - ❑ Sex
 - ❑ Age
 - ❑ Height
 - ❑ Race

Des Moines Code Sec.30-246

- ❑ The vehicle license plate number of the vehicle that delivered the junk material
 - ❑ The date and hour of the purchase or receipt of the junk material
 - ❑ Description of the material
 - ❑ Value of the material
 - ❑ Weight of the material
-
- ❑ Contact City Legal Department 515-283-4130 for assistance and a complete copy of this ordinance.

Stolen Material









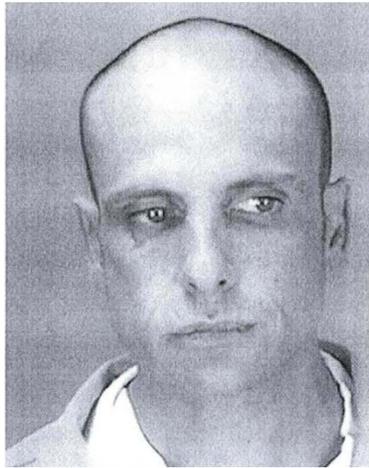




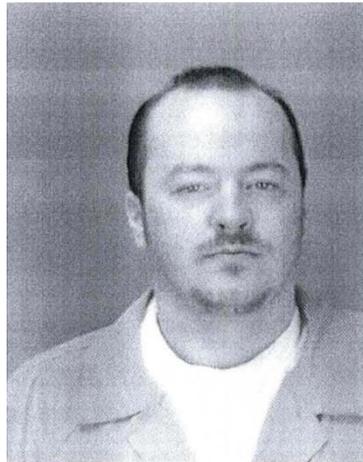
PROFILE OF A COPPER THEFT CRIMINAL

Sgt. Ralph Roth, Des Moines Police Department

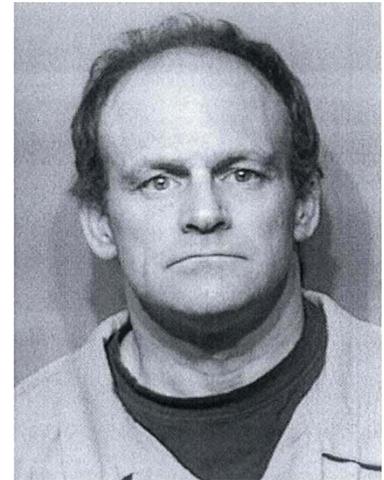
Copper Theft Criminals



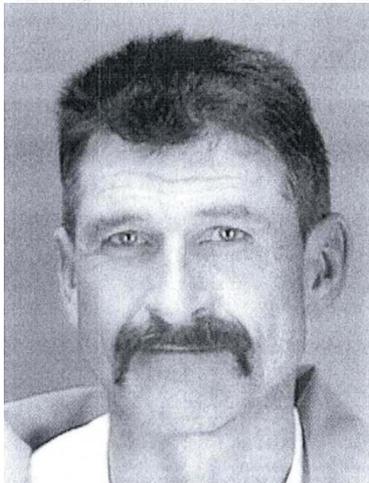
LOGAN, MICHAEL LYNN



SHAFFER, JEFFERY LEE



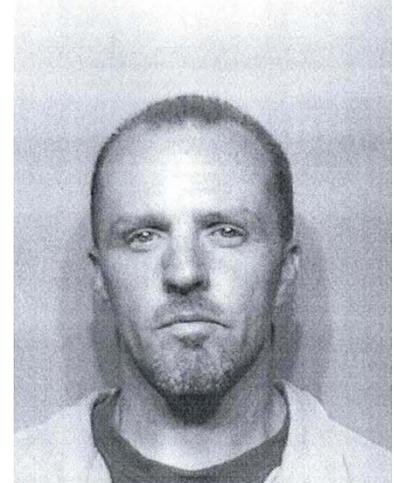
HEATHCOTE, JACK LEROY



SMITH, DONALD LEROY JR



JONES, TAISA ELLEN



MERICLE, TIMOTHY LAWRENCE

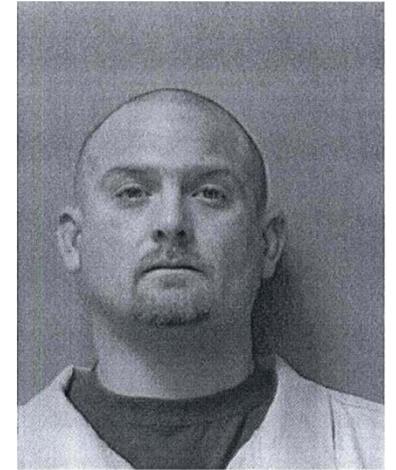
Copper Theft Criminals Continued



SCHAKE, KERRI LIN MARIE



BREHENY, BRIAN MARCUS



THOMAS, RYAN KEITH



HODGES, ROBERT HOWARD



BRAATHEN, DANNY LEE

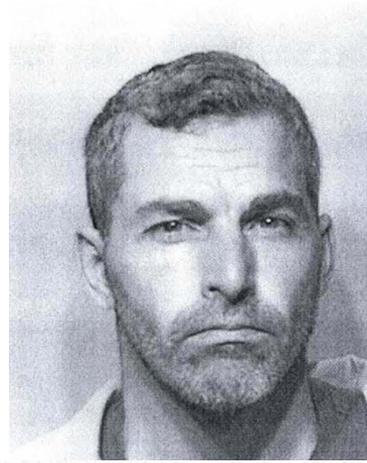


WATERS, TARA JESSICA LYNN

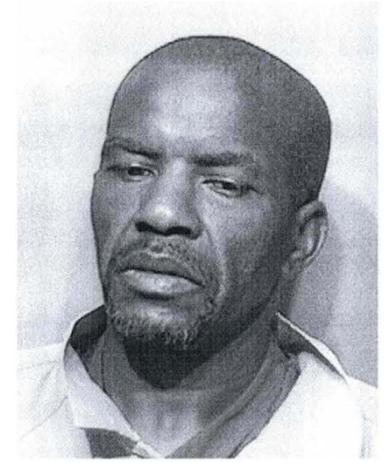
Copper Theft Criminals Continued



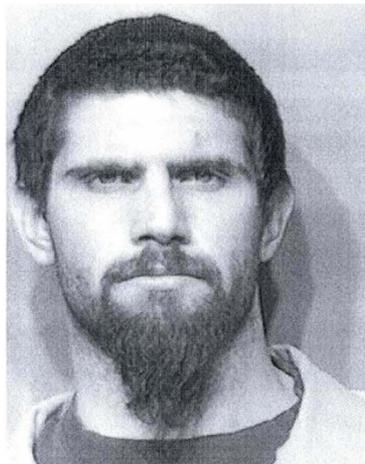
MCFADDEN, JOHNNY LEE JR



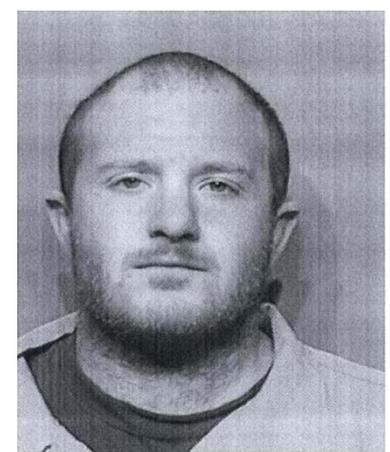
MURPHY, SEAN IAN



CHESTNUT, LYNDON EARL

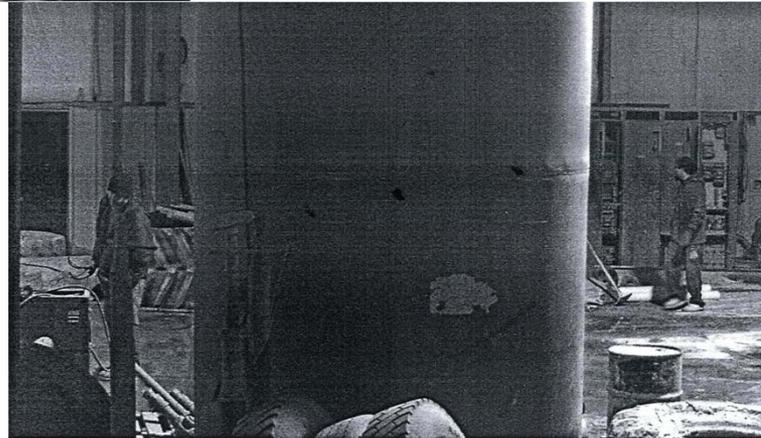


RANKIN, JOSHUA ANDREW



HANKINS, MERRILL FREDERICK III

Multiple visits to same location



Actual Copper Theft



Actual Copper Theft



Dallas, Texas Example

- **WARNING: THE FOLLOWING PICTURES ARE GRAPHIC IN NATURE**

- Downtown Dallas, Texas
- Copper thieves were trying to pull a 13,200 volt live wire out of a conduit

Science & Thieves Meet



Contact Information

- Sgt. Ralph Roth

Des Moines Police Department
Crimes Against Property Section
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

515.971.0706 cell phone number

rbroth@dmgov.org - E-mail

PREVENTING AND REPORTING COPPER THEFT

Det. Bill Gaspar, Polk Co. Sheriff's Office

Deterrence Measures

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
 - ▣ Natural Surveillance
 - ▣ Natural Access Control
 - ▣ Defensible Space



Deterrence Measures



Reporting Elements

- Report Theft As Soon As Possible
 - Why? Time Frame is important for law enforcement.
 - Why? May intercept metal before scrapped.
 - Why? May have other crimes related to yours.
 - Law Enforcement Officer stopped vehicle with metal but had no cause for arrest but made field interview.



Reporting Elements

- Usual Elements of Reports
 - Who
 - What
 - Where
 - When
 - Why



**We pay cash
money on the spot,
No questions asked!**



Reporting Elements

□ Initial Report

▣ Responding law enforcement officer will need from you:

- Name of person reporting crime
- Business phone number/cell phone number
- List of items stolen (if possible)
- Value of items (realistic)
- If there is evidence- DON'T TOUCH IT.
- Any video/photos? JPEG/ DVD/ Common media

▣ Law enforcement officer will give you:

- A case number



Reporting Elements

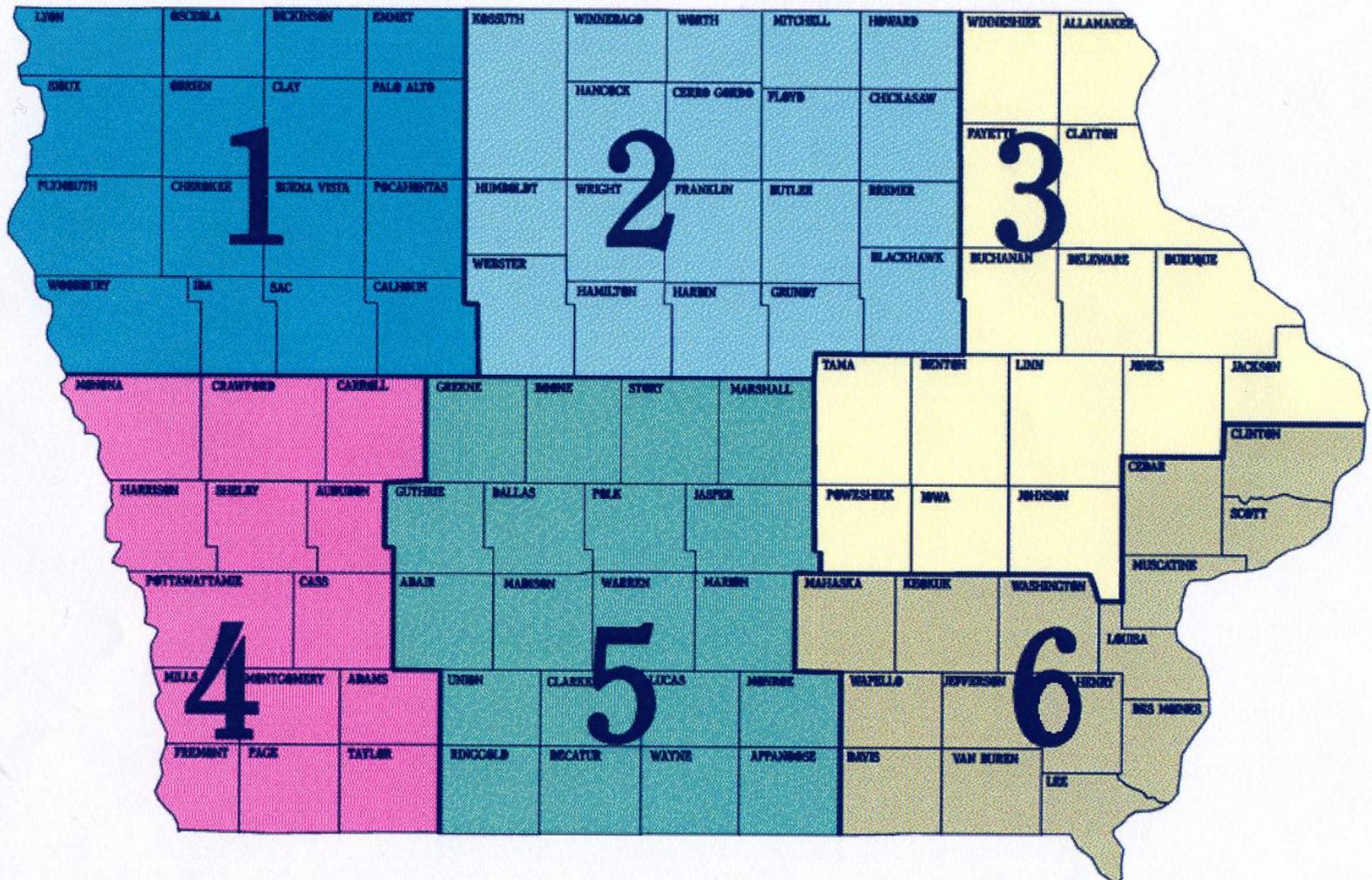
- Law enforcement officer may also:
 - ▣ Take photos
 - ▣ Take items to be processed for prints
 - ▣ Request sample of item taken or photos of sample
- Follow up
 - ▣ List of items compiled and sent to law enforcement agency?
 - ▣ Follow up by Detective/Investigator?
 - Suspects info?
 - Be Patient





Iowa Fusion System

The Iowa Law Enforcement Intelligence Network (LEIN) Regional Map of Iowa



Iowa Fusion System

- Division of Intelligence and Fusion Center
 - ▣ Des Moines, Iowa
 - ▣ 515-725-6310
- Region 1 Information Sharing Office
 - ▣ Woodbury Sheriff's Office
 - ▣ 712-224-3950
- Region 2 Information Sharing Office
 - ▣ Waterloo Police Department
 - ▣ 319-433-1364



Iowa Fusion System

- Region 3 Information Sharing Office
 - Oelwein Police Department
 - 319-334-2404
- Region 4 Information Sharing Office
 - Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office
 - 712-890-2283
- Region 5 Information Sharing Office
 - Des Moines Police Department
 - 515-283-4518



Iowa Fusion System

- Region 6 Information Sharing Office
 - Scott County Sheriff's Office
 - 563-381-1201



ScrapTheftAlert.com

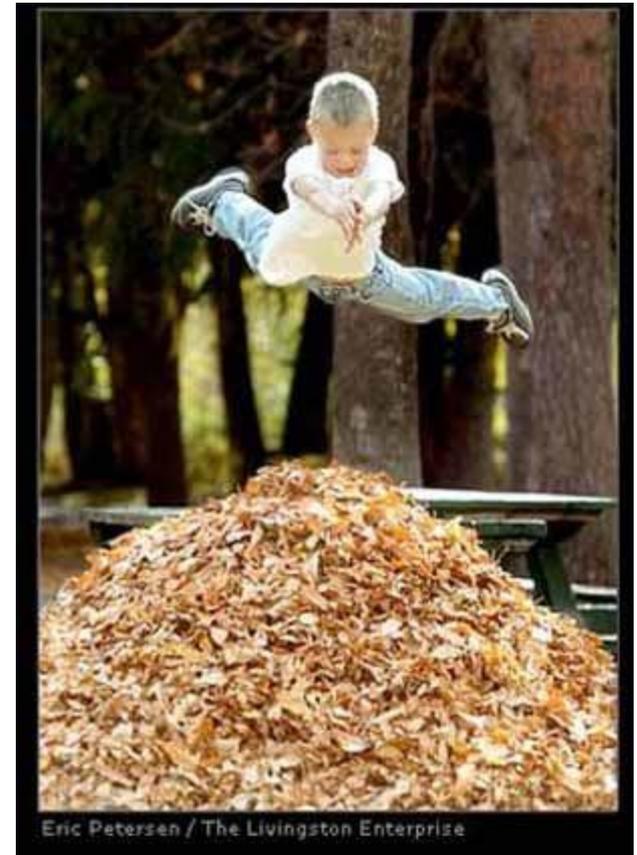


- *ISRI, a Washington, DC, based trade association, represents nearly 1,600 private and public for-profit companies – ranging from small, family-owned businesses to multi-national corporations -- operating at more than 6,000 facilities in the United States and 30 countries worldwide. Our members are manufacturers and processors, brokers and industrial consumers of scrap commodities, including ferrous and nonferrous metals, paper, electronics, rubber, plastics, glass and textiles. ISRI's associate members include equipment and service providers to the scrap recycling industry. Manufacturers and sellers of equipment and services—such as shredders, balers, cranes, cargo transporters, computer systems and more—find value in promoting the scrap recycling industry through their membership in ISRI.*
- **Source: www.isri.org**

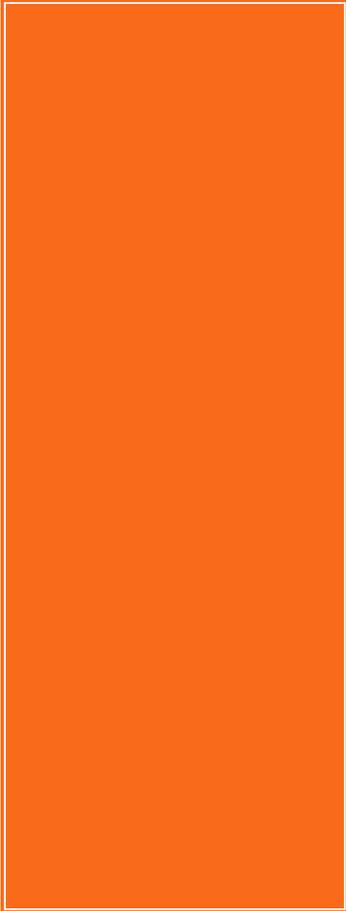
- The scrap recycling industry is working to be a part of the solution to material theft. ScrapTheftAlert.com is a tool for law enforcement that allows you to alert the scrap industry of significant thefts of materials in the United States and Canada. Upon validation and review, alerts you post are broadcast by email to all subscribed users within a 100 mile radius of where the incident occurred.
- The most effective way to address the problem of metal theft is through a comprehensive strategy focusing first on efforts to prevent metal theft to the maximum extent practicable and second on assisting law enforcement and prosecutors in their efforts to catch, prosecute, and penalize those who perpetrate these thefts to the extent necessary to dissuade their colleagues from a similar path.
- **Gary Bush Director, Materials Theft Prevention**
garybush@isri.org 352-433-2477

Contact Information

- Det. Bill Gaspar
Polk County Sheriff's Office
Region 5 Information Sharing Office
25 East 1st St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
515.237.1326



Questions?

- 
- Submit using the question box on the right hand side.
 - Feel free to direct your questions towards a specific speaker too.

Thank You!

- With no further questions, we will conclude the webinar.
- A copy of the recorded webinar along with the questions and answers and additional documentation will be posted on the Safeguard Iowa Partnership website – look for an e-mail
- sip@safeguardiowa.org