

News Release

Contact: Bryan McGannon
202/662-8510
bryanmcgannon@isri.org

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Local Scrap Dealers Share Recommended Practices to Fight Metals Theft

WASHINGTON – Scrap dealers in cities and towns across the country face the unenviable daily task of determining if a customer is trying to peddle stolen material or if the transaction, like most, involves legitimate scrap. The scrap industry has now issued a list of recommended practices to share with scrap dealers to decrease their chances of accepting stolen metals.

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries' (ISRI) Scrap Theft Task Force details the recommendations in a document titled, "Recommended Practices and Procedures for Minimizing the Risks of Purchasing Stolen Scrap Materials." The ISRI board approved the recommendations at its recent fall meeting in Charleston, SC.

"These recommendations show the commitment from scrap dealers to do their part to solve the scrap theft problem," said Shelley Padnos, Vice President of Louis Padnos Iron & Metal Co. in Holland, Mich., who chairs the theft task force. "The recommendations also reflect that what works in some yards may not work in others."

Scrap dealers already employ a variety of methods to keep from accepting stolen materials at their yards. The recommendations serve to enhance these existing procedures. They are also intended to allow scrap dealers to adopt the practices that are most appropriate for their facility and have the greatest likelihood of having a positive effect. The recommendations include:

- Building working relationships with local law enforcement.
- Requiring identification from the seller.
- Making payment by check or ATM, or using tracking methods for cash transactions.
- Capturing transactions on video surveillance.
- Prohibiting certain items such as clearly identifiable new production materials or items only used by governments and utility companies unless they are accompanied by proper authorizations.
- Training employees to identify suspicious materials.

"The recommended practices are a great addition to ISRI's overall effort to doing its part in stopping scrap theft, like the Scrap Theft Alert System and the partnership with the National Crime Prevention Council," Padnos said. "Scrap theft is a complex

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problem that, in order to make a positive impact, requires a multi-faceted solution with good cooperation and communication between our industry and law enforcement.”

The recommended practices can be found at www.isri.org/TheftPractices.

More information on the ISRI Scrap Theft Alert System can be found at www.isri.org/TheftAlert.

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The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI) is the “Voice of the Recycling Industry.” ISRI represents over 1,400 companies in 21 chapters nationwide that process, broker, and consume scrap commodities, including metals, paper, plastics, glass, rubber, electronics, and textiles. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Institute provides education, advocacy, and compliance training, and promotes public awareness of the vital role recycling plays in the U.S. economy, global trade and environment. For more information about ISRI, please visit www.ISRI.org.

