

IN THE KNOW:

METAL THEFT

Desperate times call for drastic measures, and with the weakened economy, more and more criminals are finding ways to profit through stolen metal. Some thieves steal metal from street lights and even risk their lives by climbing utility poles and cutting into power lines. Construction sites, Telecommunications, foreclosed homes and auto shops are all being targeted for their valuable metal that is then sold to scrap yards that do not question the supplier's source.

Metal costs have increased in price over the last several years, as countries such as China and India have grown exponentially in industrial manufacturing. Consequently, the demand for scrap metal has increased, with copper being the most common metal that is targeted. Aluminum, brass and bronze are also sold as scrap metal, as well as precious metals such as platinum, rhodium and palladium that tend to be stolen from the catalytic converters of a car's exhaust system. All of these metals are typically found encased in a wall, housed in a product, or underground, causing extensive damage when they are stripped out.

METAL THEFT FACTS



Cost to repair DAMAGED TRANSFORMERS or SUBSTATIONS range from \$500,000 to \$11,000,000

The F.B.I refers to copper theft as a crime that threatens the nation's "critical infrastructure"

TOTAL VALUE OF DAMAGES FROM COPPER THEFT IN US:
APPROX. \$900,000,000

Many states have enacted laws against metal theft in order to address the issue and deter the activity. Some states have even elevated the illegal possession of a large amount of copper wire from a misdemeanor to a felony crime. Even with these strict regulations, this particular criminal activity is still on the rise and costs taxpayers and businesses a tremendous amount of revenue from lost materials, damage repairs and productivity.

DETER OR PROSECUTE - EFFECTIVE EITHER WAY

The FlashCAM is a solar-charged, portable deterrent system that will help allocate valuable resources to other areas of need.

FlashCAM users have all reported a dramatic decline in material theft in the areas that the systems have been implemented. The unique audio and bright flash features of the FlashCAMs deter the criminals before they engage in the activity, while the high resolution images that are captured can be used in prosecuting suspects.



“With copper thefts on the increase in our area we knew that exposed copper would be a tempting target for ‘would be thieves’. The FlashCAMs were installed and...it acted as a strong deterrent... It is our sincere belief that having these cameras installed is what deterred any thefts of copper from that building.”

*Detective Larry Wood
Smyrna Police Department*



For more information or to request a FlashCAM demonstration, visit our website at www.qstartech.com or contact us at 310.294.8194.

