


Scrap Metal Thefts



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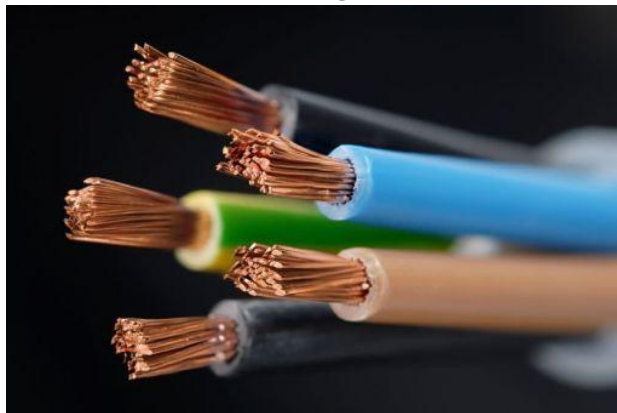
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Air Conditioning plant



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Public Sculptures / Art



Copper Cylinders

Newspaper Headlines

THE SUNDAY BUSINESS POST

22 May 2011

Metal price rise sparks ESB copper thefts

01:00, 22 May 2011 by [By John Burke](#)

IRISHTIMES

Friday, August 17, 2012

Scrap metal thieves rob GAA clubhouse and cause €8,000 worth of damage

SCRAP METAL COMPLIANCE SCHEME NEEDED TO CONTROL METAL THEFT

By [IrishFarming.ie](#) on Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Filed Under: [Farming News](#)

Independent.ie

One-ton hitchhiker statue goes walkabout

By LIAM COLLINS
Sunday March 20 2011

A massive one-ton statue called 'The Hitchhiker' has been stolen from the side of a busy motorway -- and it's believed that the thieves intend to melt it down for an estimated €30,000 worth of scrap.

thejournal.ie

READ, SHARE AND SHAPE THE NEWS

Manhole covers and memorial plaques: what's being stolen in the recession?

And what's being done to prevent it?

IRISHTIMES.com

The Irish Times - Saturday, November 19, 2011

Metal thieves turn steel, brass, copper and aluminium into gold

SUNDAY WORLD

A REAL IRISH SUNDAY

FULL METAL RACKET

Copper now so valuable that even a former army barracks is stripped bare

SCAVENGERS have stripped an army barracks in the latest raid by thieves targeting metal for scrap all over Ireland. Ireland and the UK have been hit by an epidemic of metal thefts as the price of scrap copper and lead soars.

Scrap metal thieves rob GAA clubhouse and cause €8,000 worth of damage

ELAINE KEOGH

SCRAP METAL thieves have been accused of sinking to a new low after a GAA clubhouse was plundered of all its copper pipes and water tanks.

As a result, the club has warned other GAA clubs to be extra vigilant in case they too are targeted.

Meanwhile, gardaí have confirmed they are liaising with the PSNI in an effort to tackle the crime, as the metal can be taken across the Border to be sold.

In this latest development, it appears men broke into the clubhouse and carefully took out all the copper pipes as well as eight water tanks in the attics.

This resulted in water spilling into the changing rooms and showers of the clubhouse of Hunterstown Rovers, near Ardee, Co Louth.

“This has been a disaster for the club and it is a new low. I fear this is the start of a spate of a new sort of crime against GAA clubs,” said Patsy Lynch, honorary president of Hunterstown Rovers. The gang also took the large immersion heater. In all, some €8,000 worth of damage was caused.

Earlier this year, Louth County Council had to bear the cost of replacing metal slides that were stolen from a children's playground in Dundalk – again the motive appeared to have been the price criminals can secure for the metal.

A Garda spokesman confirmed yesterday that “this is an ongoing problem and it is down to the price available for scrap metal. Those dealing with scrap metal should be conscious of where it is coming from and if it is from a genuine source.”

Proximity to the Border was also a factor, with thieves often bringing stolen goods to the North to sell, he said. “We are liaising with the PSNI and they are aware of this criminal activity also.”

Purchase complete. Thank You!

Metal price rise sparks ESB copper thefts

01:00, 22 May 2011 by By John Burke

The sharp rise in metal prices has led to a massive surge in the number of break-ins at unmanned ESB sub-stations, according to the company.

One illegal break-in resulted in the death of a man last year after he was electrocuted when he cut into a cable with a hacksaw.

The ESB Networks division said that 236 separate break-ins at sub-stations over a 12-month period had cost the company €1 million, as criminals were making off with kilometres of valuable copper cable for sale on the black market.

In a report submitted to the energy regulator, ESB Networks said that the issue now posed a significant safety risk at unstaffed facilities.

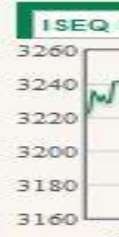
The report also revealed that a 34-year-old man was killed in February 2010 when he gained unauthorised access to an indoor sub-station. The man was electrocuted when he cut into the insulation on an energised 10kV cable with a hacksaw.

"The number of break-ins has increased measurably in recent times, and ESB Networks has implemented a number of initiatives to counteract this problem," the company told the Commission for Energy Regulation.

The new measures include a new security policy and reporting system in conjunction with programmes to improve the physical security of the stations, it said.

The widespread theft of copper from ESB sub-stations comes after the theft of bronze and iron works of art by criminals to cash in on rising metal prices.

Eircom is also understood to have suffered recently from the theft of functioning phone lines in part of the west and midlands, which have left phone users temporarily without service. Gardaí have also investigated the theft of copper piping and boilers from vacant houses in finished and partly completed housing estates.



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In another theft in County Kildare a sculpture, 'The Hitchhiker' on the M7 motorway was stolen from its plinth near Monasterevin last March.

Scrap

Its scrap value has been estimated to be as high as €30,000.

It is far from being the only piece of public art stolen this year with another valuable sculpture stolen at Moate County Westmeath.



Consequential losses

Oil escapes

Pollution

Death and injury

Water escapes

Loss of amenities



Motivated Offenders

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

Places

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

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
- Manhole covers

The Routes to Selling it



Types Of Metals

Ferrous

The word Ferrous comes from the Latin word ferrum meaning iron. Ferrous metals include steel and pig iron. All iron and steel including stainless steel are ferrous metals.

Non- Ferrous

The term non-ferrous is used to indicate metals other than iron and alloys that do not contain an appreciable amount of iron. Important non-ferrous metals include aluminium, copper, lead, nickel, tin, titanium and zinc, and alloys such as brass.



Why has there been an increase in Scrap Metal theft ?

There is no single answer but a combination of factors.

- Price paid for scrap metal has a direct link to the theft of metals.
- High demand on the international market.
- Building boom and rapid industrial development in India and China.
- Economic conditions.

- [**Scrap Metal Ireland-Erin Recyclers Pay Best Prices for Ferrous, Non ...**](#)
- www.scrapmetalireland.com/[Cached](#)
- Erin Recyclers - **Ireland's** Leading Independent Nationwide **Scrap Metal** Collection Service - We Buy and Pay Best **Prices** for **Scrap Metal** in **Ireland**. We Recycle ...
[Scrap Metal Collection](#) - [Scrap Metal Services](#) - [Sell Scrap Metal Now](#) - [Location](#)
- [**Scrap metal for money from Oranmore Metal - boards.ie**](#)
- 25 Apr 2009 – I thought the **price** of **scrap metal** had soared. ... According to Repak **Ireland**, they get €18,000 Euro per tonne of cans from Novelis in Cheshire ...
[**Scrap metal**](#) - 16 Apr 2012
[Price of **scrap metal** and classics](#) - 8 Sep 2008
[Scrap Dealing - Page 2](#) - 25 Apr 2007
[More results from boards.ie »](#)
- [**Browse for Scrap Metal Dealers in Ireland**](#)
- www.yourlocal.ie/b/scrap-metal-dealers[Cached](#)
- O'Reilly **Scrap Metal** Recycling will buy all your metal scrap offering you top **Prices** updated daily.
- [**Ireland scrap metal recycling depot and metal dismantling facility ...**](#)
- www.clearcirclemetals.com/[Cached](#)
- We offer the best **prices** for **scrap metal** in **Ireland** and we are the biggest buyer of **scrap metal** in the Mid West. We handle over 100,000 tonnes of metal each ...

O'Reilly Recycling Dublin

	2012 (Prices as of Oct 10 th 2012)	2008-2009 • Approx. figures only
General scrap metal mix / ferrous Metals	€120/tonne	Unable to give exact figures but stated figures approx. 20% less than todays rates
Copper	€4500/tonne	
Brass	€2500/tonne	
Aluminium	€750/tonne	
Stainless Steel	€1000/tonne	
Lead	€1/kilo	

Below is a sample analysis of prices paid by three Irish scrap metal dealers as of October 10th 2012 All three dealers stated an approx. 15- 20% increase in prices paid for all types of metals in the past 4 years

Erin Recyclers – Sligo

	2012 (Prices as of Oct 10 th 2012)	2008-2009 • Approx. figures only
General scrap metal mix / ferrous Metals	€150/tonne	* €90/tonne
Copper	€4000/tonne	* €2800/tonne
Brass	€2000/tonne	* €1500/tonne
Aluminium	.75cent/kilo	* .60cent/kilo
Lead	€1/kilo	* .80cent/kilo

Clearcircle Metals - Limerick

	2012 (Prices as of Oct 10 th 2012)	2008- 2009
General scrap metal mix / ferrous Metals	€150/tonne	Unable to give exact figures but stated figures approx. 15% less in 2008.
Copper	€4200/tonne	
Brass	€2500/tonne	
Aluminium	€750/tonne	
Lead	€1/kilo	

- Increased opportunities for thieves in targeting properties e.g. vacant industrial units, ghost estates etc.
- Weak regulation of the metals market.
- Anonymous low-risk transactions between thieves and scrap metal buyer.
- Scrap metal dealers 'fuelling theft through no-questions asked' industry
- Increase in scrap metal buyers.

The metals most commonly stolen are copper, aluminium, brass and bronze and with the approximate market value of one tonne of aluminium estimated at €1,750 it can be a very lucrative business.



The Problems Associated with Scrap Metal Theft

Substantial Costs include:

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, and
covering expenditure increases needed to cover loss and/or adding improved security surrounding the utility company.
Damaged power equipment resulting from scrap metal theft also poses significant risk to utility repair teams as well as offenders.



Some solutions

- Education
- Gardai
- Regulation- routine inspections and checking in with the scrapyards - checking their books
- perimeter security
- higher fencing
- alarms,
- CCTV
- smoke generating anti-theft devices.
- felling trees near properties that could allow thieves to access roofs and removal of other potential climbing equipment being properly stored on building sites



Investigators arrive at the scene where a man's body was found Network Rail has issued a statement warning people not to trespass on railways after a man was electrocuted in Essex this morning. His body was found lying close to the tracks at Hadleigh just before seven o'clock – June 2012

Education

- **Metal theft film by police and council highlights damage**
- All locations featured in the film have been targeted by metal thieves
- **Cancer ops delayed by cable theft**
- A hard-hitting film depicting how metal thefts can affect people's lives has been launched in south Wales.
- It explains how thefts caused £250,000 in damage to communities across Rhondda Cynon Taf in the last nine months.
- The thefts stopped hospital operations, caused funeral services to be postponed and led to school flooding.
- Items stolen include street lighting cables and litter bins as well as heating boilers, copper pipes and lead flashing to waterproof church roofs.

Education!



- Rhondda Cynon Taf council and police joined forces to fight metal thefts in March.
- The film is being used in the latest campaign and aims to target people responsible and encourage residents to report the "mindless " thefts.
- It shows how a man ends up in hospital when he tries to steal cable from a street light and suffers electrical burns.
- The film shows how a man dies after stealing power cables



Education

However, he cannot receive the treatment he needs because the hospital he is sent to has also been hit by metal thefts.

Then his funeral service is postponed due to flooding in the church where the lead flashing has been stolen.

All locations featured have been targeted by thieves, including Llandough Hospital, in the Vale of Glamorgan, where thefts led to 80 operations being cancelled.

An Garda Síochána
NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

Crime Prevention
GUIDING ADVICE
REGARDING
VACANT PROPERTY

An Garda Síochána highlight the issue of Home Security, focusing on houses advertised for Sale and Vacant Premises.

In the current housing market, many regions have been victim to thieves cleaning out unoccupied homes, stripping them of copper pipe and tanks. The increase in the value of copper and lead has increased the incidents of theft of these and other metals.

An Garda Síochána has identified an emerging crime trend showing that vacant buildings, whether empty for a short or long term, and properties advertised for sale are being targeted for burglary, especially in isolated areas.

Empty buildings contain a lot of valuable fixtures and fittings and invite opportunities for theft of building fixtures, such as plumbing and electrical cabling.

Organised gangs and opportunistic thieves are suspected of being involved in this activity and all geographic areas are potential targets.

The Garda National Crime Prevention Unit advises the following security measures for house owners, estate agents and letting companies:

- Conduct frequent checks of the property at different times of the day to note any signs of trespassing or interference.**
- Install a burglar alarm and set it.**
- Secure all doors and windows with deadbolt locks.**
- Install timers on internal lights and motion detectors on external lights to make the house appear occupied and offer natural surveillance of the property.**
- Ensure that the building doesn't look neglected. Cut the grass and hedges regularly.**
- Remove rubbish from inside the building and around the perimeter.**
- Report any suspicious activity to the local Gardaí.**
- Inform the local Garda station about the premises being vacant to afford passing attention on patrols.**
- Put measures in place to protect empty buildings against arson, theft and vandalism.**
- Avoid the build up of post and unsolicited mail by arranging 'mail minder' service with An Post to retain post for collection and place a 'No Junk Mail' sign on letter-box.**

Prosecutions

- **Gwent Police's metal theft crackdown sees 862 arrests**
- Gwent Police have stopped 21,942 vehicles as part of the campaign
- **Related Stories**
- Gwent Police say a 16-month crackdown on metal thefts has resulted in more than 860 arrests and nearly 1,500 vehicles being seized.
- Officers have stopped more than 21,000 vehicles since the operation began in April 2011, seizing 70 van loads of scrap, and closing two scrapyards down.
- Figures at the end of 2011 showed metal thefts from churches alone in Wales rose five-fold in two years.

Prosecutions



Dedicated Gardai unit? --

- A metal theft forum has been set up under the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit to develop a metal theft prevention and crime reduction plan. The forum involves a number of different organisations and groups which have been particularly affected by metal thefts, such as the ESB, breweries and the farming community.

Dedicated units

- 19 December 2011
- **Police metal theft unit launches in Bexley**
- The British Transport Police (BTP) regards metal theft second only to terrorism in its list of priorities
- 20 plus dedicated officers
- Scotland Yard is launching its first dedicated unit to tackle the growing problem of metal theft.
- The crime is believed to cost the economy around £700m a year.
- The Waste and Metal Theft Taskforce is based in Bexley, south-east London, one of the boroughs most severely affected because of the high number of scrap metal yards.
- The police and the Government last week announced a crackdown to curb the metal theft crisis.
- The taskforce includes experts from BT and the local authority's environmental crime unit; it will also advise other boroughs, particularly areas with high numbers of scrap metal yards.
- British Transport Police (BTP) said it regards cable theft second only to terrorism in its list of priorities, and a newly formed cross-ministerial group has met several times to discuss the problem.
- Operation Ferrous In the first two weeks of December officers carried out 275 inspections and searches of scrap dealer yards.
- Fifteen people were arrested for offences ranging from burglary to transporting waste metal illegally without a licence'
- Sixteen vehicles were seized as part of Operation Ferrous.
- 2 yards were closed

Welsh police figures

- **METAL THEFT CRACKDOWN**
- 862 people arrested
- 761 people reported for summons
- 21,942 vehicles stopped
- 8,628 people stopped or searched
- 283 people referred to the DWP

Regulations – in limbo

- **Minister rejects scrap metal Bill**
- TDs from all parties and Independents highlighted burglaries and thefts of public monuments stolen for their precious or scrap metal content, including cabling for railway signals, children's playground apparatus, religious icons and unfinished houses.
- **They were speaking during a debate on private member's legislation introduced by Independent TD Mattie McGrath, which provides for stricter controls on trading in precious and scrap metals because of the huge increase in the value of gold, silver, platinum, copper, lead and bronze.**

- Mr McGrath verbally bristled when the Minister described his legislation as “decorative”.
- During sharp exchanges when he called the Minister “mealy mouthed” and Mr Shatter described him as a “disgrace to the House”, Mr McGrath said the Minister “must wake up and listen to what is being said. This isn’t Mattie McGrath’s Bill. You must listen to your backbenchers.”
- He also said: “The ESB has cost the Garda a fortune” because they had to have regular patrols by gardaí of substations and power stations to protect them from such thefts

Regulation

- New UK law into effect 1/12/2012
- Require scrap-metal dealers to record names and proof of identity and residence (e.g. driving licence number, address from recent utility bill, etc) from everyone who sells to them.
- (2) Prohibit payment by cash on the spot. Payment would be by cheque posted to the seller at the address demonstrated above.
- (3) Perhaps require scrap yards to hold purchased metal materials for 14 or 28 days, which would improve the chances of recovering items reported stolen.
- Heavy fines for breaches
- Intent is to stop the convert to “cash” route and be able to trace cheques.

Practical solutions – some suggestions!

- Removal of the higher risk items –
- Like cast iron radiators, that are portable and can be put in safe / secure storage
- To internal where they are portable such as cable rolls from yards



Practical solutions

- Guarding –
 - Static
 - Mobile
 - With check in points
 - Irregular hours
 - Focused on the higher risk times

Practical solutions

- CCTV
- Netwatch Stop watch and others
- Motion detector based with audible challenges
- Must be “backed up” with attendance

CCTV – not a cure all





Spot the difference




Spot the difference



A useful deterrent but not the miracle cure!

If you are not challenged such as due to operator complacency



- 
- Insufficient cameras
 - Intermittent power supply
 - Bad placement of cameras
 - Rural area with a slow response
 - Degree of the attraction
 - Expensive to set up but cheap longer term



What is your experience ?

Property sitters

Live-In Guardians: how it works

Camelot manages vacant properties on behalf of property owners in the period prior to their ultimate use. Properties may be awaiting demolition, renovation, sale, letting or redevelopment. You never know in advance how long you will be able to stay in a property; you may have to leave the property after just a few months or stay living there for a couple of years.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED?

When you choose to become a Guardian, you do not pay rent. You pay the Camelot monthly management fees. These fees often include all utility bills, and are on average one third of the going market prices for similar size properties/rooms in that area. In Ireland fees vary from **€25 - €100** a week, depending on the room size and the location. Camelot also asks you to put down a fully refundable deposit of **€500**.

Extract website -

Are there any other advantages to having Guardians as opposed to traditional security?

"Several, remember the Guardians live in the property so they will treat it as they would their own home. We also conduct monthly and weekly inspections of the property to double check and insure the building is being cared for and looked after. This is active security in every sense, security against theft, vandalism etc. but also security of knowing the property is being cared for by real people who treat the property with the respect it deserves. Also, it is our experience that CCTV merely records crime, it does not prevent it and with a property such as Abbeville we needed to be certain our client appreciated that. We can point to numerous stories in the press where traditional security measures have been unable to prevent important, historical buildings succumbing to theft, vandalism and in the most regrettable cases, arson. Convincing our clients of facts like this is fundamental to understanding how the Live-In Guardian solution has been so successful in its adoption throughout Europe."

Security protections



Security protections

- Sliding grill
- Static grills
- Metal plates and covers over windows
- Hoarding and fencing
- Signage
- Blocking up windows where vulnerable by location
- Internal blocking up between higher and lower risk sections

Security protections -

- What is suitable in some locations is not suitable in others –
- indeed it can sometimes lend an air of dilapidation and encourage persons in some situations!



Burglar alarms

- Power supply issues
- False alarms and cost if key holding services are being used
- Have to be central station linked to be of any real use
- Who responds to the 4am call out?



There is no easy one size fits all solution

- You make it difficult to sell to reduce the potential
- You make fines / prison for seller and buyer punitive
- You take the appropriate measure that the value at risk and the exposure warrants



Questions?