



Royal Bahamas Police Force

Police Emergency
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Metal Theft Prevention Tips

Unfortunately, metal theft has become an all too common occurrence. One of the fastest growing crimes in our country today is metal theft. Copper, aluminum, nickel, stainless steel and scrap iron have become the desired target of thieves looking to make a quick buck. This has been happening throughout the World, so it is not a problem unique to the Bahamas. Therefore, the Royal Bahamas Police Force would like to offer the following tips to help prevent the theft of copper items from your property.

Consider these measures to reduce your risk:

- **Install a security camera** with video recorder and keep recordings for a sufficient period.
- **Secure all equipment** in locked buildings, or in well-lit areas secured by fencing. Better yet, use a perimeter security system with contact alarms or motion detectors.
- **Post "No Trespassing" placards** around the property or signs indicating the presence of a surveillance or security system to deter thieves.
- **Remove access to buildings and roofs.** Eliminate items that allow for easy entry to buildings, such as trees, ladders, scaffolding, dumpsters and accumulated materials such as pallet piles.
- **Secure your building access** with deadbolts, and door and window locks.
- **Trim or remove shrubbery** or other landscaping that allows criminals to hide from view on your property.
- **Mark metals** with the company's name using paint, hard-to-remove decals or engraving equipment.
- **Make sure someone is present** when supplies such as copper wiring or pipe are delivered at a job site so the materials can be immediately secured.
- **Don't receive supplies earlier than you need them.** The longer metal is onsite and unused, the longer it's at risk of theft.
- **Develop a relationship with the police.** Ask for their guidance in preventing metal theft at your business and what to do in the event a theft occurs.
- **Increase lighting outside,** and protect fixtures (such as AC units) with locked metal cages.
- **Create a master list** of all of your equipment and bulk metal (if applicable) and include pictures. Providing the list to your agent and the authorities might help in recovering the items.

If a metal theft does occur, call the police immediately. Be sure to preserve the crime scene, including tire tracks, shoe tracks and fingerprints. This evidence could be used to help prosecute the thieves if they are caught.



National Crime Prevention Office

302-8430/1

www.royalbahamaspolice.org

Crime Stoppers

328-TIPS (8477)

Family Islands

(242) 300-TIPS (8477)

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