



MEDIA RELEASE

Homeland Security

Ohio Homeland Security • Richard C. Baron, Executive Director
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Contact: Lt. Anne Ralston 614-752-2792

Scrap Metal theft presents a significant threat to Ohio's infrastructure

COLUMBUS – Whether it is the theft of railroad spikes and rails or copper communication lines, scrap metal theft presents a significant threat to Ohio's infrastructure. These types of thefts can create disruptions in communication services and dangers to the public. It can also create a significant financial burden to property owners. That is why the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and Ohio Homeland Security supported Senate Bill 193 which creates a mandatory online registry for scrap metal and bulk merchandise container dealers in Ohio.

The online registry, which must be completed by January 1, 2013, aims to create an infrastructure within the industry to crack down on scrap theft, thereby protecting Ohio's infrastructure by focusing on the end point - the dealers and recycling facilities. The bill also defines and establishes criminal penalties for purchasing, selling or receiving a special purchase article.

By 2014, dealers are required to report transactions through an electronic reporting system maintained by ODPS. In addition, ODPS will maintain a "Do Not Buy From" list for use by law enforcement agencies and dealers. The list contains the names of known scrap thieves in the area.

In order to help raise awareness and knowledge concerning Senate Bill 193, ODPS will offer training for both law enforcement officers and representatives from the scrap metal industry. The training will provide a comprehensive overview of the bill. Attendees will also receive information on how and where to register, what penalties can result for failure to comply with the revised law and ways to determine if someone may be attempting to scrap stolen property.

For more information on the training dates and locations, visit <http://homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/doc/scrapmetal.pdf>

If you See Something, Say Something. Contact Ohio Homeland Security at 1-877-OHS-INTEL or for emergencies, call 911.

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