

There are some things you can do to reduce the opportunity for theft. Although several of the suggestions seem pretty drastic and time consuming, they are worthwhile if a theft is prevented.

You are the best judge of what is worth spending your time and trouble on in your particular situation.

1. Keep metallic items out of sight, locked up and securely stored when not in use.
2. Invest in fencing, locks, chains, alarm systems, no trespassing signs, storage units, cameras and possibly security.
3. Be cautious of people that you allow to access your property.
4. Report suspicious persons and or vehicles to Law Enforcement.
5. Notify trustworthy neighbors or caretakers if you plan on taking extended trips out of town.
6. Put identifiable marks or labels on metallic materials. This can aid in preventing theft and identifying stolen property.



#### MISSION

*"To enhance the safety and protect the trust of the citizens of Harris County by enforcing the law with integrity and professionalism."*

[Sheriff.Gonzalez@sheriff.hctx.net](mailto:Sheriff.Gonzalez@sheriff.hctx.net)



#### CONTACT US

Harris County Sheriff's Office  
1200 Baker Street, Houston, TX 77002

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Emergency          | 9-1-1          |
| Non-Emergency      | (713) 221-6000 |
| Inmate Information | (346) 286-1260 |
| Information Line   | (346) 286-1600 |



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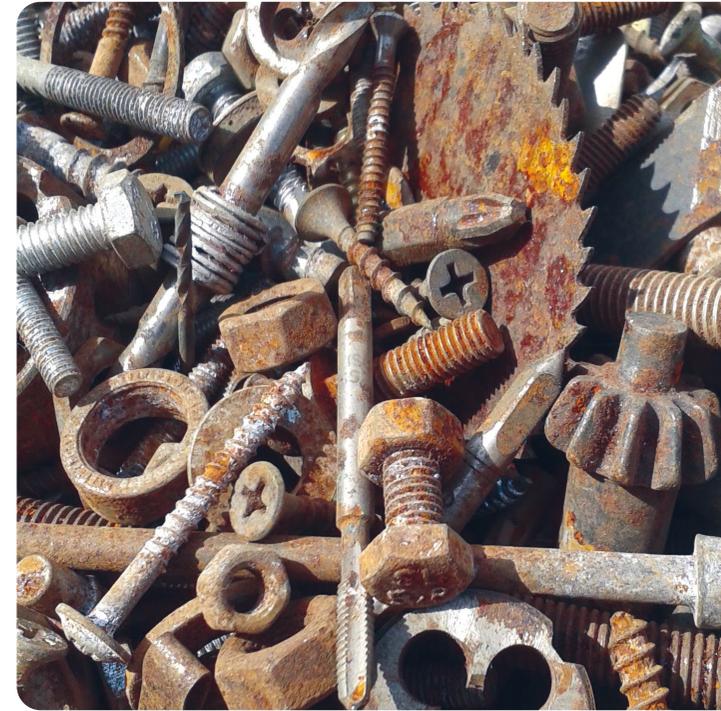
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## HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### Crime Prevention Unit



## Metal Theft Prevention



Community Engagement Division  
346-286-3125  
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As metal prices rise, so do the number of metal thefts. Thieves are willing to go to almost any length to steal metal, stripping sheets of metal from building rooftops, stealing memorial decorations from cemeteries, ripping apart air conditioners for their copper coils and stripping homes and buildings of wiring and piping.

Since August 2009, metal thefts have steadily increased across the nation, driven by rising prices for base metals, especially copper.



Whether the theft is an expensive personal irritant, like finding your catalytic converter has been stolen or one that threatens public safety, as when the theft of copper wiring blacked out runway approach lights at the Modesto, Ca, regional airport, metal thefts are increasing in frequency and severity.

To the average person, most metallic items have a use or a purpose, but to thieves, these items have a value as recyclable metal. To help prevent ongoing metal theft and stop metal theft before it starts, metallic items should be kept out of sight, locked up and secured when not in use.

The following is a list of common items that may have a value as recyclable metal and should be securely stored out of sight:



Copper



Batteries



Electric Motors



Stainless Steel



Insulated Wire



Auto Parts



Lawnmowers



Pipes



Wires



Brass



Sheet metal



Cable



Aluminum



A/C Units



Appliances