



Florida Sheriffs Association Position on Secondary Metal Recyclers

Florida's Sheriffs support uniform record keeping and reporting requirements for pawnbrokers, secondhand dealers and secondary metals recyclers. Unlike pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers, secondary metals recyclers presently are not required to transmit records of the business transactions on their premises to law enforcement authorities at a central electronic database. Consistent record keeping and reporting will assist law enforcement to identify suspicious transactions and persons involved in frequent transactions of non-ferrous metals and providing alerts to the activities of suspects in illegal activities.

Thefts of non-ferrous metals, including copper, brass and aluminum have increased dramatically throughout Florida. The metals are generally converted to cash by the thieves through sales to secondary metals recyclers. A central electronic database allows a comprehensive search of all transactions in the chosen geographic area. It is critical to law enforcement for all affected businesses in both unincorporated and incorporated areas submit data on these materials. The current laws are not clear on whether affected businesses within incorporated areas are required to report this information.

The Sheriff is usually the law enforcement entity responsible for maintaining the central database and uploading the data into the larger regional system. By utilizing a central electronic database, where secondary metal recyclers report all regulated metals transactions to the appropriate law enforcement official, illegal activity will be reduced.

Florida Sheriffs urge uniform reporting standards for secondary metal recyclers, pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers.

