



Weld County Sheriff's Office

1950 "O" Street, Greeley CO 80631

1-800-436-9276 or 356-4015 ext 2803

or Cell # 970 381 0107

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Copper Wire Thefts

Theft of copper wire increases as area farmers begin to shut down their pivot irrigation sprinklers for the season and are typically left un-attended. Thieves are aware of this and take advantage of the fact that the wire is available in typically remote farm fields. The copper wire is cut from the sprinklers, stolen then taken to area scrap yards and sold for salvage price. Copper scrap prices are at an all time high making this item very tempting to thieves. Farmers are not the only ones falling victim to this crime. Gravel pits, utility companies and new construction sites are also being affected. Farmers can protect themselves by marking wire casing with different colors of paint, positioning sprinklers in less remote areas, checking on equipment often, and advising neighbors to also be on the look out for any suspicious activity around the sprinklers.

Other businesses and industries can prevent thefts by securing spools of wire so they are not easily accessible on work sites, keep wire locked up and out of site when not in use, and document manufactures markings on the wire casing for later identification.

Scrap yards should be on alert for large quantities of wire being brought in especially if it appears new; document all required information of persons bringing in wire including vehicle description

and license plate numbers.

Sometimes the thieves will strip the wire from its plastic or rubber casing. Public service workers, landlords, etc. should be on the look out for and take notice of large stockpiles of empty wire casing. If you do suspect someone is involved in this illegal activity please call the Weld County Sheriff's Office Investigations unit at 970-356-4015 x 2825 or your local law enforcement agency.



JOHN B. COOKE
SHERIFF