

What Public Safety Is Saying About Copper Theft

Copper theft in California continues to skyrocket. Here's what law enforcement across the state is saying about what they are facing.

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“**These thefts don't just strip copper, they cut off 911 service, disrupt internet access, and compromise critical infrastructure people rely on in emergencies.** The damage runs into the millions, paid by taxpayers, while offenders make a few hundred dollars.”

-LA County District Attorney
Nathan J. Hochman

“Copper theft is a serious public safety crime that disrupts critical infrastructure and threatens the safety of our community. **Damage to communication and utility systems can impair emergency response and impact local businesses and residents alike.**”

-Vernon Police Chief Robert Sousa

“California continues to lead the nation in copper theft, and the consequences of this crime extend far beyond financial loss. It **threatens public safety, leaves our communities in the dark, interrupts critical communication and infrastructure services and drives up costs for residents and businesses.**...By working closely with businesses and telecommunication companies, the Department is also helping to educate stakeholders on effective strategies to deter theft and protect infrastructure.”

-LA County Sheriff Robert G. Luna

“As public safety professionals, we see firsthand the impact that copper theft has on our communities—disrupting essential services, threatening infrastructure, and putting people at risk. **Modernizing our networks is not just a technological upgrade; it's a critical step in ensuring we can respond quickly and effectively to these challenges.**”

-El Monte Police Chief Jake Fisher

“Copper theft is a serious offense that directly threatens public safety and the well-being of our community... **When copper is stolen, entire neighborhoods can lose access to essential services such as water, electricity, communication systems, and heating and cooling, often for extended periods of time.** These disruptions place schools, hospitals, and first responders at risk, impacting their ability to serve and protect the public”

-South Gate Police Chief Manual Arana

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