



CITY OF CLEARWATER

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CLEARWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT KICKS OFF THE COLD STEAL INITIATIVE TO COMBAT A GROWING METAL AND A/C THEFT TREND

Clearwater, Fla. – Metal and air conditioner condenser thefts continue to rise, with 145 reported cases so far this year. This amounts to a 254% increase in metal thefts* from 2010 and a 480% increase from 2009. The Clearwater Police Department is taking a proactive approach to reduce the frequency of these crimes through a metal theft reduction initiative: Cold Steal.

Through the Cold Steal Initiative, Clearwater Police will target vehicles carrying large loads of metal. The person or people in possession of the metal must be able to account for its origins. If they are unable to do so, they may be subject to arrest and the property seized under Florida Statute 705.102(4).

FS 705.102(4) Reporting lost or abandoned property—

Any person who unlawfully appropriates such lost or abandoned property to his or her own use or refuses to deliver such property when required commits theft as defined in s. [812.014](#), punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#), s. [775.083](#), or s. [775.084](#).

“If you’re toting a large load of metal or air conditioning parts in your vehicle and you’re headed to a recycling center, you better be able to tell us how you got it and from where. We see too many people who cannot account for their metal cargo and that is no longer an acceptable excuse,” said Clearwater Police Chief Anthony Holloway.

Cold Steal focuses on prevention and deterrence as well as response, arrest, recovery and seizures of metal that was obtained unlawfully. The objective is to recover stolen property and reduce the number of thefts by showing potential thieves that we are serious about stopping metal thefts.





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**Metal thefts include A/C thefts (entire units or copper and other parts stolen from units), as well as copper rolls, storm grates, scrap aluminum, metal water meters parts, copper plumbing, etc.*

