Copper Theft Prevention Tips

Copper Thefts in General

- Copper is 100 percent recyclable and recyclers pay, on average, 90 percent of the new copper price for scrap copper.
- Copper theft is a crime of opportunity.
- Access is quite easy—in most cases, a vehicle can be driven to the site of the theft.
- The item of interest is not well protected; for example, no alarms, cameras or barriers.
- The perpetrators can operate in an area without being observed.
- The potential for detection is limited. The target is considered to be easy.
- Copper theft requires a limited number of tools.

Preventing Copper Theft

- Add security lighting to dark areas of your building. Use standard and motion lighting around the areas that have copper.
- Restrict access to your roof-mounted HVAC units by removing fixed ladders (do not remove fire escapes) and other step-ups including tree branches that may assist thieves. Portable ladders should be kept inside a locked building.
- Consider the use of steel cages to enclose your AC units. The heavier the gauge of steel the longer it will take to cut. Avoid using standard chain link fencing as it can be cut quickly.
- Use security cameras. Check that all cameras are properly protected, installed, and monitored.
- Use alarms that are mounted to your HVAC units. If the unit is tampered with, including cutting of refrigerant and power lines, an alarm will sound. This security measure may be a valuable tool in protecting the units, particularly if your building is currently protected by a security alarm. Contact your local security company or HVAC contractor for details.

For Emergencies, Call 911