



VRADS

VRADs (Video Ready Access Devices) are frequently broken into by thieves targeting the batteries, while cross-connect boxes are commonly compromised to steal copper cabling, posing risks to network integrity and service reliability.

Cell Tower Copper Theft

Typical Stolen Items:

- Ground wire (#8)
- Buss bars
- Halo-interior ground wire inside shelter.
- Batteries – large (may be >100lbs.).
- HVAC copper (exterior units).
- Power cable, which can run from shelter to tower and up to radios/antenna at top of tower.
- Commercial power cables (usually buried underground in conduit) from meter to shelter.)



Copper Cable Theft Investigations and Prosecution

We need your help bringing thieves and scrap dealers who purchase stolen cables to justice. When you investigate a theft, please take the following actions;

- Take pictures.
- Protect the crime scene.
- Preserve evidence.
- Talk with witnesses and neighbors.
- Identify cable markings as they help reveal the cable's original location and can assist in identifying the suspect or prove an affirmative lead.
- Check state theft or telecommunications statutes. (isri.org/ReMA)
- Review city ordinances for scrap metal dealers.
- Look for neighboring homes/businesses for video cameras.
- LPR in the area may provide leads on vehicles involved.
- Phones contain very valuable information (subjects/arrestee).
- For cable theft prevention, AT&T will use GPS trackers, which are attached to the aerial cable.
- The GPS trackers trigger alerts based on motion being detected by the tracker, including changes in elevation (cable drops to ground).
- The triggering alert enables emails and SMS messages to all listed alert groups.
- The GPS monitoring company contacts law enforcement to provide GPS tracking location information and active track activity.



Telecom Copper Cable and Component Theft

A Guide for Law Enforcement and Fire Departments

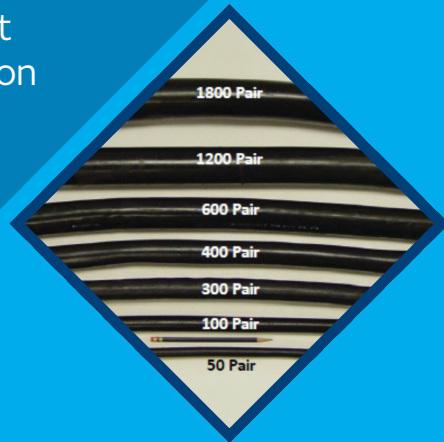
If you need assistance, call AT&T Global Security (800) 807-4205.

For subpoenas, search warrants or court orders, call AT&T Global Legal Demand Center (GLDC) at (800) 635-6840.

AT&T Global Security can help you with additional information:

- Identifying the cable theft location, approximate weight and value of the stolen cable.
- Validating employee or contractor ID.
- Verifying authorized contractors who are working legitimate AT&T cable jobs.
- Providing expert testimony to support prosecution.

AT&T Cable Theft Identification



Cable Facts (Copper Cable)

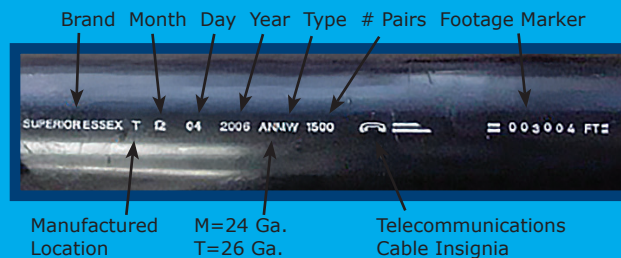
AT&T does not give, sell, or discard new or used cable scraps. Unused material is recycled under contract with vendors. Anyone who possesses a cable must have a valid ID and work order.

- Cable theft is a serious threat to 911 systems and all emergency-service providers.
- Cable is stolen from AT&T telephone poles, work centers, underground vaults (manholes), cell sites, and construction sites.
- Copper cables vary in size from 25 pairs to 4200 pairs. Pair refers to two individual wires. (i.e., 25 pairs = 50 individual wires, 4200 pairs = 8400 individual wires).

What Thieves Do to the Cable

- Copper cables are cut into short easy to carry lengths (2ft – 6ft) using a Sawzall, grinder, hack saw, bolt cutters or pole saw.
- Thieves will also use a razor knife to slit the outer sheath, discard it, and remove the individual copper wires – the plastic on the wires may be burned off later as well.
- The copper cable can also be coiled into a longer roll and then will be burned to remove the black outer sheath and plastic coating off the individual wires. This fire would emanate significant amounts of thick black smoke (petroleum-based sheath).
- Copper cables will be transported in the truck bed, trunk, rear seats, cargo compartment, shopping carts, ATVs, on trailers etc. and frequently stored in sheds, garages, storage units and abandoned homes/buildings.

Cable Markings & Components



Scrap Metal

- Scrap metal dealers prefer raw copper and pay cable thieves without the sheath.
- Raw copper is easier for dealers to sell and conceal.
- State laws vary and may prohibit dealers from purchasing from those without proper licensure or identification.
- Mere possession of telecommunications wire may be a criminal offense.

Scrap Metal Dealer information

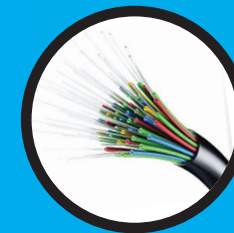
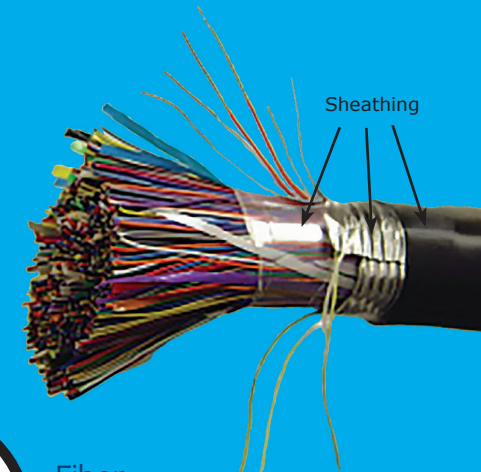
- Purchase invoices and records generally have sellers' identification (DL), pictures, video, vehicle description etc.
 - These records are very valuable.
- Leads Online – source to check for copper wire sales
 - #2 burnt copper is frequently used but buyers may intentionally disguise the sale as "iron", "metal" etc.



Burnt Cable

Copper cable can be de-sheathed by cutting or burning all plastic off cable in a firepit or open burn area. The burning of the petroleum-based sheath creates an obvious and noticeable plume of thick black smoke.

Twisted Color
Coded Cable
Pairs



Fiber

Fiber optic cables, which have no resale value, are often cut by thieves searching for copper cables because their exteriors look similar; handling or looking directly into exposed fiber ends

can pose safety hazards due to potential eye damage and physical injury.

Evidence of Burn Pit Locations or Stripped Cable sites

- Heavy black smoke.
- Piles of the black outer sheath and aluminum inner shield.
- Steal strands of support cable.
- Cable reels.
- "Firepits" or burn areas in grass/fields.

