



March 6, 2012

FMAU Members,

We wanted to alert everyone to an issue that has come up in West Valley recently that may be happening within in other jurisdictions which could have disastrous consequences if not caught.

Recently we have found several businesses that have had the FDC hardware either wrenched out of the pipes or in some cases cut off with a cordless saw. Seems times are tough enough that the effort is worth the ten or so dollars worth of brass in the fittings for scrap. My biggest find was a couple of weeks ago when driving behind our Winco Foods store and finding all four couplings wrenched from the wall and just the empty pipe fittings left on the other side of the wall. In all of these cases the businesses were unaware of the theft and subsequent impairment of their sprinkler system. Thankfully they are all repaired now.

We are all aware of just what would happen in the event of a fire and activation of the sprinkler system with no FDC in place and in some cases simply open piping left behind. I have been working with Winco Foods on a fix in the form of a hinged metal box that will mount on the wall and cover the FDC. It will be secured by a Knox pad lock and will swing out of the way for access by fire fighters. Or, the thieves may just steal the box, we don't know.

With that said, be vigilant. Check the FDCs on businesses in your jurisdiction. You may not find a problem or you may be surprised, but if we can find missing FDCs, we can get them fixed before there is a bigger problem.

Thanks

West Valley Fire Prevention Division

From: David Nichols [mailto:dnichols@iccsafe.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 12:28 PM
To: Dave Berg (FMAU)
Subject: RE: FDC Theft

Dave,

We were having major problems in Arizona with this. The Legislature enacted statutory restrictions on the scrap metal industry.

See here: <http://www.azleg.state.az.us/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/44/01642-01.htm&Title=44&DocType=ARS>

Has Utah enacted such laws?

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ARIZONA LEGISLATURE STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS ON SCRAP METAL INDUSTRY

[44-1642.01. Prohibited scrap metal transactions; exceptions](#)

A. A scrap metal dealer shall not knowingly purchase the following types of scrap metal in its original manufactured form:

1. Metal manhole covers that are used to cover street or alley service personnel access entrances to municipal sewers and storm drains.
2. Brass or bronze valves or fittings that are commonly used on structures for access to water for the purpose of extinguishing fires.
3. Brass or bronze commercial potable water backflow preventer valves that are valves commonly used to prevent backflow of potable water into municipal domestic water service systems from commercial structures.
4. Water meters that are used for measurement of the use and consumption of domestic water.
5. Aluminum trench shoring that is commonly used for shoring below ground trenches and excavations for the construction of buildings and structures.
6. Aluminum loading ramps that are manufactured and used for loading motor vehicles for hauling the motor vehicles.
7. Aluminum or stainless steel beer or malt beverage kegs that are commonly used by brewers or producers for the sale and transportation of beer or malt beverages.
8. Catalytic converters. For the purposes of this paragraph, "catalytic converters" means motor vehicle exhaust system parts that are used for controlling the exhaust emissions from motor vehicles and that contain a catalyst metal.

B. This section does not apply to or prohibit the purchase or possession of the types of items listed in subsection A and that are acquired in transactions with industrial accounts, with other scrap metal dealers or after the scrap metal is authorized for release by a peace officer of that jurisdiction.