

MEDIA RELEASE

RISKING LIVES TO PEDDLE HIGH-VOLTAGE METAL

Transit Police and Crime Stoppers need tips to thwart some metal thieves who are endangering us all by stealing live trolley wires in Vancouver

Vancouver, B.C. (February 22, 2018): Metal theft in Vancouver has been taken to new heights recently – about as high as the trolley wires over your head.

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers and Metro Vancouver Transit Police are seeking tips leading to the arrest of thieves who are cutting and stealing live 600-volt elevated copper trolley wires used by the Coast Mountain Bus Company to power transit buses.

The thefts usually occur overnight when there are fewer witnesses around, and the thieves may be in unmarked vehicles. They might appear to be legitimate utility workers and using sophisticated equipment and machinery.

Just last month, trolley wires were cut loose and taken away near Blanca Street and West 7th Avenue in Vancouver. As the thieves left, they left live trolley wires dangling just a few feet above a sidewalk. Two teenagers spotted the downed wires while heading home and reported it.

In the past two years, the Transit Police has investigated almost two dozen trolley wire thefts in the City of Vancouver. Each incident is potentially deadly, can create lengthy service delays, and incur replacement costs of up to \$50,000.

“In addition to the criminal act of stealing the metal itself, it’s just plain deadly to be meddling with high-voltage wires,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. “With the obvious dangers to both the thieves, and anyone else who might encounter downed wires, Transit Police needs to find the culprits and put a quick end to this. Crime Stoppers is standing by 24/7 to gladly accept any information anonymously that will help lead to the arrest of these copper thieves.”

Anyone spotting suspicious activity such as cutting, dragging or chopping wire or using unmarked vehicles during the night may anonymously contact Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-8477 or texting "BCTIP" and your information to 274637 (CRIMES). You can also submit your anonymous tip online at www.solvecrime.ca.

(more)

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that receives anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. <http://www.solvecrime.ca/>

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