



NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

January 10, 2008

SUBJECT: Copper Thefts

During a two month period, nine thefts of copper items have been reported to the Newark Police Department. Most of these have been thefts of copper downspouts from private homes. The theft of copper wiring from a construction site has also occurred. Some of the downspout thefts are known to have taken place during the daylight hours.

The high price paid for copper on the metal market is driving this type of incident. The Newark Police Department is aware that such metal thefts are not limited to Newark, and appear to be occurring across the nation.

Residents are advised to be aware of suspicious activity around their homes and in their neighborhoods. It is possible the thieves are posing as construction workers while removing the downspouts, so as to not arouse the suspicions of anyone who may see them. Because of this, residents are encouraged to call the police whenever someone is seen removing metal materials from a home or building, even if it appears to be a legitimate operation.

Businesses dealing in scrap metal should be watchful for potentially stolen property and are encouraged to use good business discretion in their transactions. Recording the name, address, and vehicle information of a seller is a helpful practice.

**Media Contact: Lt. Brian Henry, Public Information Officer 302-366-7110 ext. 125 or
Brian.Henry@cj.state.de.us**