

Metal Theft: A Problem You Can Help Prevent

The City of Roseville's Environmental Utilities Department and Roseville Police Department need your help in preventing and reporting illegal metal theft.

See backside for more information.



Environmental Utilities



What is the Problem?

Metal theft is a nationwide problem. Due to tough economic times coupled with a global demand for copper and other metals, utility and other infrastructure have been subject to thefts of wiring, manholes, backflows and other utility components that contain metal. Not only does metal theft interrupt utility service, it also costs you, the utility ratepayer, money in the form of higher utility rates to compensate for the damage caused by thieves.

In Roseville, since the Fall of 2010, there have been 91 instances of backflow prevention devices being stolen and sold for scrap value. The average replacement value of these devices is approximately \$1,500 each plus the inconvenience of having water outage as a result of the vandalism. Total damage costs is \$136,500.

We need your help in helping to prevent metal thieves from further damaging public and private infrastructure in Roseville.

How You Can Help

Call 9-1-1

If you see a crime in progress...call 9-1-1. Do not approach the suspects.

Report Information

If you have information about a metal theft crime that is not in progress or has already occurred, you can report it by calling us at (916) 774-5750.

How You Can Paint Your Own Backflow to Prevent Theft

Roseville's Environmental Utilities Department will be painting City-owned backflow devices a distinctive color to indicate they came from Roseville (pictured). This will help our region's law enforcement agencies and law-abiding metal recyclers identify potentially stolen property from Roseville.

If you'd like to paint your backflow devices at your Roseville business locations, follow these directions.

First, pick the specified city-approved Krylon® Weekend® Spray Paint, Forest Green, Product Number 349. Then mask the test cocks so the backflow device can be tested at a later date. Paint the device thoroughly and make sure to re-install the freeze

protection once the paint dries to protect the device from winter temperatures.

The cost of painting the backflows is modest compared to the \$1,500 it costs to replace stolen devices and repair the damage, plus the lost business and inconvenience of waiting to have the backflow device replaced and water service restored.

For More Information

Environmental Utilities:
(916) 774-5750 or
environmentalutilities@roseville.ca.us

Roseville Police Department:
(916) 774-5000 or (916) 774-5750

