



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **BEND PATROL OFFICER NABS COPPER WIRE THIEVES** **Security Officer Interrupts Wire Theft at SCMC Construction Site**

December 17, 2009 BEND – A Bend Patrol Services security officer who was patrolling St. Charles Medical Center cutoff the theft of several coils of valuable copper wire Tuesday evening.

On December 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:13 p.m., Bend Patrol Officer Rick May was on patrol at SCMC and was investigating suspicious activity near G lot when he found two men loitering near a small pickup. May noticed there were coils of copper wire in the back of the truck and he became suspicious. The two men claimed they had found the wire on the ground nearby.

Officer May then noticed bolt cutters in the truck bed, so he began to check nearby facilities for signs of tampering. May quickly discovered that coils of copper wire had been cut from two temporary construction buildings nearby.

Standey Hayden, 42, and Woodow Titsworth, 46, were arrested and booked for felony charges of Grand Theft and Possession of Burglary Tools.

Wire theft has become an increasing problem across the Nation. A slow economy, rising copper process driven by the demand for building materials in Asia and vacant construction sites all contribute to the allure of wire theft. The City of Fresno, California recently spent millions of dollars to harden access to the wire inside of street light poles and city buildings after thieves ripped the copper wire out of City Hall in the middle of the night.

Last year, thieves hacked out over 3 miles of wire from the Oregon Caves National Monument, resulting in a \$3.5 million dollar loss. In another recent case, a Bend scrap dealer called authorities when someone tried to sell him a statue of Sacagawea which had been stolen from the Lewis and Clark Memorial.

Some scrap metal recyclers have stepped in to help deter wire theft by asking for identification from metal redeemers, paying only by check and even sharing their security camera videos with investigators.

Bend Patrol Services is a professional organization that provides uniformed patrol, security consulting and investigative services throughout Central Oregon.