



# Georgetown County Sheriff's Office

A. Lane Cribb, Sheriff

430 North Fraser Street

Georgetown, South Carolina 29440

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## News Release

Contact: Carrie Cuthbertson, Public Information Officer, (843) 436-6049

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For Immediate Release

August 8, 2011

### **NEW COPPER THEFT LAW - EFFECTIVE AUGUST 17, 2011**

(Georgetown, SC) ---On June 17, 2011, Governor Nikki Haley signed House Bill 3660, commonly known as the Copper Theft Bill into law. This new law makes several important changes to current law regarding the sale and purchase of certain nonferrous metals, most particularly, copper.

Under the new law, which becomes effective August 17, 2011, any person wishing to transport and sell any non ferrous metal including copper and catalytic converters to a scrap metal dealer must first obtain a permit to transport and sell the metal from the county sheriff in the county where the seller resides. This permit to transport and sell is free to the public.

There are two types of permits available to the public. The first is a one-year permit for those persons who intend to transport and sell non ferrous metals including copper over a period of one year. To obtain this one-year permit, a person must go to the sheriff's office in the county where they reside and complete the application provided by the sheriff. The sheriff, upon approval of the application, will issue the applicant a permit which will allow the applicant to transport and sell non ferrous metals including copper to a recycler.

The second permit is a 48 hour permit that may be obtained by calling the sheriff in the county where they reside. The person making the call will be given a permit number good for transporting and sale of non ferrous metals including copper and catalytic converters for 48 hours. This permit is for those persons who intend to transport and sell these materials no more than twice a year. This permit is free to the public.

Non residents of the State of South Carolina may obtain either permit from the Sheriff of the County where the Scrap Metal dealer is located.

Additionally, any person or business intending to purchase copper or catalytic converters must obtain a permit to purchase from the sheriff's office where they do business. There is a \$200 fee for the "permit to purchase" and is renewable every 2 years. Further, any person or business seeking the permit must be doing business from a fixed location. A recycler may not purchase copper or catalytic converters from a person unless the person presents their "permit to transport and sell" or permit number if it is a 48 hour permit.

Additionally, the law provides that this section does not apply to the purchase or sale of aluminum cans.

This new law does not apply to a holder of a retail business license, an authorized wholesaler, contractor licensed pursuant to law or a gas, electric, communications, water, plumbing, electrical or climate conditioning service provider.

For Georgetown County inquiries, please contact Lt. Alan Jackson of the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office at 546-5102 or [ajackson@gtcounty.org](mailto:ajackson@gtcounty.org).

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