

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

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March 11, 2014 – UPDATE – SUSPECT IDENTIFIED – IN CUSTODY

Suspect Identified in Theft of Copper Wire from Light Poles

On March 10, 2014, an arrest warrant was issued for **25-year-old Ronald Lee Moore** from Phoenix regarding involvement in this theft. Following publication of the story, YCSO detectives were contacted by Phoenix Police Department detectives who identified Moore as a possible suspect based on similar tactics used by Moore for wire theft in the Phoenix area. As a result, the YCSO lead detective began researching copper wire sales involving Moore in Phoenix. The detective discovered Moore had recently sold wire to a scrap metal dealer that was an exact match to the wire stolen in this case. YCSO detectives also linked Moore to a theft of wire from light poles in October of 2013 along Highway 69 in Cordes Junction. Additionally, physical evidence gathered from the scene in Yavapai County also linked Moore to the theft. Total loss from both incidents exceeds \$30,000.



Suspect Moore remains in-custody at the Maricopa County Jail charged with similar crimes. The Yavapai County arrest warrant will be served immediately upon his release from custody in Maricopa County. At that time, he will be transported to the Camp Verde Detention Center to answer new local theft charges in Yavapai County.

The investigation is ongoing and additional arrests are probable.

Original release issued February 13, 2014 - Suspects Sought in Large Theft of Copper Wire from Light Poles.

On February 10, 2014, YCSO deputies were assigned to meet with representatives of the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) regarding a theft of copper wire. Deputies were told that unknown suspects removed copper wire from more than 20 light poles positioned on the east side of the on-ramp to I17 south from SR 69, Cordes Lakes. Regarding the involved light poles, suspects accessed the wire by removing the lid to a box revealing conduit and portions of exposed wire. The suspects were then able to pull the copper wire out of the conduit to steal. Several wires run to each pole which are placed about 200 feet apart.



What the wire looks like

ADOT last checked the condition of these lights on the evening of February 6, 2014, and they were functioning properly. On February 8, 2014, ADOT employees were called to the area for a storm watch and discovered the theft. Based on information from Sheriff's patrol units, the theft likely occurred during evening hours on Thursday, February 6, or Friday, February 7, 2014. Deputies collected evidence and contacted YCSO detectives.

ADOT provided the following stolen property description and associated value –

- **12,700' of # 8 Black, stranded copper wire = \$ 5,975.35.**
- **4,408' of # 8 Green, stranded copper wire = \$ 2,081.11. *Total weight of the #8 stolen wire is about 1200 pounds.***
- **4,236' of # 10 Black, stranded copper wire = \$ 1,315.74. *Total weight of the # 10 stolen wire is about 190 pounds.***
- **186' of # 12 Black, stranded copper wire = \$ 38.79.**
- **Connectors, fittings, and fuses = \$ 4,477.36.**

Total Loss = \$ 13,888.35.

YCSO is asking anyone with information on this theft to contact Yavapai Silent Witness at 1800-932-3232 or Detective Todd Swaim at 928-554-8605. Refer to case number 14-005117.