

HONOR AMONG THIEVES

While more and more recycling operations are turning to ATMs for cash security, there are still many scrap yards paying cash from a desk drawer or cash box. Sometimes there's nothing more than a piece of Plexiglas between the cashier or scalemaster and the customer. The understanding these yards have with their employees in the event of a robbery is "just give them the money." The hope is the would-be robber will be satisfied with taking ONLY the money, and not a life. Sadly, this is not always the case, as a cursory reading of any major newspaper will testify.

There is an unspoken law within our industry sometimes referred to as "Honor Among Thieves". Here are some of the premises of that unspoken law:

"Nobody would rob us. We've been in this neighborhood for ___ years."

"If they robbed us, where would they go for money?"

"If they robbed us, our other customers would get them."

"We're a fixture in this town. We're good to those people. They respect us."

There may be some truth in these beliefs. The people in our own neighborhood may well respect us and do us no harm. What about the people that just moved into town? The ones who don't know your history, but know that you have a large amount of cash in that little drawer protected only a guy with an average build in a hard hat?

Put that cash in a safe and secure place.

In doing so, you'll be putting your *people* in a safe and secure place.

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