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AT&T Announces Oklahoma Reward to Combat Copper Theft

By Jason Constable, AT&T Director of External Affairs

Copper theft is increasing in Oklahoma, and AT&T is taking additional steps to help address it.

Oklahoma is now among the top 10 states in the country for copper wire theft impacting AT&T's network, **ranking 6th nationwide for the company**. As of August 1, 2026, **Oklahoma has experienced more than 300 reported copper theft incidents** impacting AT&T's network. **Tulsa accounts for 93 of those incidents**, while **Oklahoma City accounts for 86**.

To help combat this issue, **AT&T recently approved a reward of up to \$10,000 in Oklahoma** for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of copper theft suspects. This reward sends a clear message: copper theft is a serious crime, and stopping it will take continued coordination among communities, law enforcement, public officials, recyclers, and service providers.

These incidents are more than property crimes. Copper theft can disrupt phone and internet services, affect emergency communications, create safety risks, and divert resources away from ongoing network maintenance and expansion.

In one recent case, a copper theft left more than 300 homes without telephone and internet service for approximately 13 hours. Outages like this can affect far more than everyday connectivity. They can potentially disrupt home alarm systems, access to emergency services, and critical medical devices that depend on reliable communications.

AT&T's coordination is already producing results. In May, AT&T Global Security worked with the Oklahoma City Police Department and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry on an operation targeting stolen copper telecom wire. The effort resulted in the seizure of approximately 2,400 pounds of stolen copper telecom wire from Oklahoma City-area recycling centers.

A similar operation in Tulsa led to the recovery of approximately 300 pounds of stolen telecom wire. These efforts show the importance of coordinated enforcement and strong partnerships in identifying stolen materials, disrupting theft networks, and protecting vital communications infrastructure.

Copper theft can also create dangerous conditions for workers, first responders, and the public. When thieves cut or damage telecommunications lines, they may leave behind hazardous work sites, expose communities to service interruptions, and increase the time and cost required to restore service.

Another way AT&T is working to decrease these serious disruptions is by modernizing our network to fiber and wireless services. The use of copper cables is declining rapidly because of its lack of reliability. We have already started to upgrade our customers in Oklahoma to more reliable, modern technology, meaning we can remove and recycle the old copper and take away thieves' incentive to steal from our network and our customers.

AT&T appreciates the continued work of law enforcement and state and local partners in Oklahoma to address this growing problem. Recent operations in Oklahoma City and Tulsa demonstrate the value of collaboration and enforcement, but community awareness remains essential.

Residents can help by staying alert. If you see suspicious activity around utility lines, network equipment, manholes, poles, or other communications infrastructure, report it. Quick reporting can help law enforcement respond faster and may prevent broader service disruptions.

Tipsters with information about copper theft can contact local law enforcement and AT&T Global Security at **1-800-807-4205**. Information that leads to the arrest and conviction of copper theft suspects in Oklahoma may be eligible for a reward of up to **\$10,000**.

We all have a role to play in protecting the infrastructure that keeps Oklahoma communities connected. By reporting suspicious activity and supporting coordinated enforcement efforts, residents can help reduce theft, protect public safety, and support more reliable service across the state.

For more updates and stories, read additional information [here](#).