

## To catch a copper thief

Written by

Tuesday, 28 August 2007 11:31

---

Several copper thefts over the past few months have deputies in Caldwell County searching for suspects. The most recent hits occurred last weekend when heat pumps were stolen from both Center Grove Baptist Church and Elite Cushions. Deputies estimate ten to fifteen businesses have been victims of copper theft in the past two months, and, according to Sheriff Alan Jones' office, there are several things the public can do to help deputies' efforts. Record the serial numbers on your heat pumps, deputies urge. That way, if a pump is stripped of copper, it can be easily identified. Pay attention. If you see someone hauling a heat pump, take their tag number- just in case, deputies say.

Deputies believe the thefts are happening in the early morning. At Elite Cushions, a ford pickup truck was seen leaving the scene around 5:45 a.m.

While copper theft suspect Joshua Jenkins was charged earlier this month with copper thefts by deputies and Hudson Police, he is still incarcerated. That means there could be various culprits, according to a Caldwell County Sheriff's Office statement. Anyone with information is encouraged to call Caldwell County Sheriff's Office at 828-758-2324.