



# Copper & Aluminum Theft on the Rise: How to Protect Your Church

Believe it or not, people steal copper and aluminum for cash, and the church can be a prime target. Within the past several years, PACT has had many claims reported, where thieves are stealing air conditioning units, ventilation systems, heaters, gutters, electrical wiring and pipes. In some cases, churches have been victimized more than once.

While the thieves are after \$300-\$400 worth of copper or aluminum, it can cost the church thousands of dollars.

## THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR CHURCH

Review the following information and consider this information in planning how to deter aluminum and copper theft:

- Increase lighting around any HVAC systems or any construction areas.
- Consider the use of security cameras near system sites and construction areas.
- Protect your HVAC systems. Churches can install alarm systems, cages, or fencing around and over the area.
- Work with local authorities if you begin to read the newspapers or hear of thefts in the area. Have the local authorities drive by your church more often.
- Educate the neighbors and your congregation about suspicious activity, cars or people in the area. Report oddities to the local authorities.

*The Ministry Protection Memo (MPM) series is offered as an educational tool in support of United Methodist Insurance's property and casualty insurance program to help you develop loss control and ministry protection procedures. United Methodist Insurance does not, with these MPMs, seek to establish a particular standard of care or to provide legal advice. Church leaders are encouraged to consult competent attorneys with regard to the church's specific needs. United Methodist Insurance encourages reproduction and distribution of this MPM within the United Methodist denomination. Others may contact the United Methodist Insurance Service Center, via telephone at 1-800-975-5442 for permission to reproduce MPM.*

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