UNCLE AND NEPHEW JAILED FOR RAILWAY CRIME SPREE

An uncle and his nephew have been jailed after embarking on a three-month crime spree on sections of the rail network in North Staffordshire.

Steven Mason (50) and Andrew Hancock (32) hired a hydraulic cable cutter from a tool hire firm before targeting Network Rail mast sites on five separate occasions. The thefts put severe strain on the network and cost Network Rail more than £125,000 in damage and delays.

The deployment of SmartWater traceable liquids and signage to protect cable in the area put an immediate stop to the crime spree, helping Network Rail to avoid a situation that could have caused massive disruption to the area. A follow up covert operation planned and executed by SmartWater Investigators ultimately led to the arrest of both men.

Continues on page 3
PARTNERSHIP’S RAIL AWARD SUCCESS

SmartWater is celebrating after winning a toughly contested award for Rail Asset Management and Security at the 2015 UK Rail Industry Awards.

SmartWater developed an innovative crime fighting partnership with Network Rail and British Transport Police (BTP), which dramatically cut cable theft and improved safety on the London to North West (LNNW) mainline.

The UK Rail Industry Awards recognise best in class collaborations, initiatives and projects which ensure the UK’s rail industry remains at the forefront of innovations and best practice. The accolade received by SmartWater acknowledges the company’s dedication to the key issues affecting the sector.

Not only did the SmartWater project deliver major reductions in cable theft for Network Rail, the asset management and security strategy devised by SmartWater also provided data and insight into other types of crime impacting safety on the rail network, including trespass and vandalism. Giving Network Rail a better understanding of their own risk allowed for security measures to be strategically deployed and concentrated in areas with the highest levels of crime - maximising cost efficiency.

SmartWater Chief Executive, Phil Cleary, said: “We are delighted that the hard work undertaken by all parties involved has been recognised with this accolade. The level of engagement and co-operation between our team, Network Rail and British Transport Police has had a dramatic impact, both from a safety perspective and on the return on investment to Network Rail.”

SmartWater is now being used by Waitrose supermarkets to protect handheld devices used by employees on shop floors and in stock rooms.

All 341 branches of Waitrose are now using SmartWater to protect iPads, iPhones, branch laptops, Zebra (BSM) printers and Click & Collect handsets, making them all uniquely identifiable. A number of stores have also installed SmartWater spray systems to protect cigarette kiosks from the threat of out-of-hours burglaries.

Sheila Mitchell, Change Advisor for Waitrose Business Protection said: “Since introducing SmartWater spray systems in fixed locations and marking all of our mobile devices we’ve received positive feedback from in-store colleagues. We have confidence in SmartWater’s abilities as a deterrent, it’s easy to use and we’re aware that the police are looking for it.”

FLORIDA UNIVERSITY AIMS TO PROTECT STUDENTS

A Florida university has become the first in the USA to adopt SmartWater in order to suppress on-campus incidents of theft.

SmartWater developed a unique partnership with Florida Atlantic University (FAU), which distributed 300 SmartWater traceable liquid packs to students at the Student Government in order to protect students’ property. The Student Government at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) has allocated a total of $9,000 for the purchase of 300 SmartWater traceable liquid packs, which will be distributed amongst students. SmartWater CSI, which holds exclusive rights to distribute SmartWater in the USA, has also donated an additional 250 kit.

An estimated 450 of the SmartWater kits have already been issued to students at Heritage Park Towers and Innovation Village Apartments. FAU is the first university in the USA to use SmartWater, though the technology is also currently being used by at least 20 police agencies in South Florida.

SMARTWATER TO PROTECT 440,000 LONDON HOMES

Continued from page 1

A SmartWater project launched by London’s Metropolitan Police Service will enable 440,000 residents across the capital to mark their most treasured valuables and make them uniquely identifiable. It is predicted that the rollout will prevent over 7,000 domestic burglary offences, saving almost £2 million of public money and freeing up 140,000 policing hours.

The Metropolitan Police will immediately commence London-wide searches for traces of SmartWater on offenders and suspected stolen property. Routine searches of offenders will also take place in police custody suites. This will significantly increase the chances of arrest and conviction for thieves who target SmartWater protected premises.

Key to the awarding of the contract was the proven track record of SmartWater’s technology within the Criminal Courts, along with the strategic methodology that was first developed by the company’s CEO Phil Cleary, himself a former police officer. This methodology maximises the impact of SmartWater products in order to create anxiety within the criminal fraternity.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: “I am committed to tackling burglary in the capital, and this traceable liquids programme shows that once again the Met Police is at the forefront of innovation when it comes to preventing crime. I hope Londoners receiving this kit will take advantage of it to protect themselves and their homes from thieves”.

SmartWater Chief Executive, Phil Cleary, said: “The Metropolitan Police were very thorough in their assessment of our concept and we are very aware that there is a lot of work ahead of us, but we are delighted to be a part of this world-first project and look forward to working closely with them to assist in the incredible work that they do to suppress crime levels across London.”

The accolade received by SmartWater acknowledges the company’s dedication to the key issues affecting the sector.

The UK Rail Industry Awards recognise best in class collaborations, initiatives and projects which ensure the UK’s rail industry remains at the forefront of innovations and best practice. The accolade received by SmartWater during 2015 was made during the 5th annual awards ceremony in the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London. The ceremony was attended by leading figures from the rail industry.
UNCLE AND NEPHEW JAILED

An uncle and nephew responsible for multiple cable thefts against the rail network have been arrested and jailed. Steve Mason and Andrew Hancock sold all of the cable they stole to the same scrapyard and deposited the cash into an account set up by Mason. The use of SmartWater put a stop to the crime wave and a covert operation was then planned to try and catch the thieves, as intelligence suggested they would likely turn their attention to other areas of the network. This operation led to the arrest of both men, and a search of their homes by British Transport Police officers recovered a power charger and receipts for the hired hydraulic cable cutting equipment used in each theft.

Mason and Hancock were jailed for a combined 9 years and 11 months after being found guilty of conspiracy to steal and money laundering. A third man, Mark Makin, was handed a two-year sentence suspended for 18 months for his part in the crime.

Mel Hillman, Electrification & Plant Maintenance Engineer for Network Rail, said: “The service provided by SmartWater is of huge value to us and they are a key strategic partner in our ongoing fight against cable theft.”

FIRST FOR FRENCH TOWN COUNCIL

The council of Mandelieu la Napoule in south eastern France has become the first in the country to use SmartWater to fight against domestic burglary. The council already has a network of CCTV cameras in place along with 43 municipal police officers and 25 public road surveillance officers. However there are still approximately 70 - 80 domestic burglaries being recorded each year, so the town has decided to use SmartWater as an added deterrent.

An initial 600 homes will be offered SmartWater security packs to protect their valuables along with SmartWater signage, which will also be placed on letterboxes and on main roads leading into the town. The council is also protecting its own assets by marking computers, phones and tools. If the project is deemed to be a success the council will look to develop a strategy that will make SmartWater available to the whole town.

SMARTWATER INCORPORATED INTO DEGREE COURSE

Teesside University has announced plans to incorporate SmartWater into its Crime Scene Science BSc (Hons) degree course.

Second year students will be taught how to recover SmartWater forensic evidence along with wider aspects of how the technology can be used to influence criminal behaviour.

The objective is to provide up and coming Crime Scene Investigators with information about SmartWater at the beginning of their careers, thereby maximising potential opportunities for identification and evidential recovery. Teesside University is an established UK centre for Forensic and Crime Scene Science education, having taught it for over 20 years. All of the university’s courses are accredited by the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences.

Dr Mark Butler, Senior Lecturer & Course Leader at Teesside University, said: “Teesside University is highly respected in the field of Crime Scene and Forensic Science. Many of our graduates have gone on to become Crime Scene Investigators, Intelligence Analysts, Police Officers, Forensic Scientists and more. It is important our students appreciate that SmartWater is seen as another forensic evidence type; at its heart it covers completely the forensic principle of detection, transfer and persistence.

“Our students don’t just learn the techniques to photograph and recover this evidence, they also explore how SmartWater is an intelligence tool in linking scenes and analysing its distribution. Furthermore degree modules also focus students to value SmartWater’s powerful influence on crime reduction when mobilised as part of a wider strategy.”

RIVER PROJECT REDUCES MARINE THEFTS

Reported thefts of marine equipment on the River Hamble have been significantly reduced following a partnership project between the River Hamble Harbour Authority, Hampshire Police and SmartWater.

Launched in 2013, the project saw approximately 4,000 SmartWater traceable liquid packs made available to boat owners to protect valuables including outboard motors and radar equipment.

Though the River Hamble has never been categorised as a crime hotspot, SmartWater was introduced as a further deterrent to would-be thieves.

David Evans, Harbour Master for the River Hamble, said: “The success of this project is a direct result of the close working partnership that exists between the River Hamble Harbour Authority, Hampshire Police and SmartWater. Suffice to say that we are very happy with the situation as it stands and long may it continue.”

POLICE AND SMARTWATER

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**LONDON COUNCIL REDUCES BIN THEFTS BY 100%**

A council project in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to prevent the theft of commercial bins has produced dramatic results.

Over a two-and-a-half year period a total of 82 council-owned metal bins were stolen from housing estates and communal refuse points, costing £41,793 of public money to replace. All bins were subsequently marked with SmartWater traceable liquid and fitted with signs to warn thieves that they were protected. In the nine months since the introduction of SmartWater the council has recorded a reduction of 100% with no further thefts reported.

Cllr Shahed Ali, cabinet member for Clean and Green said: “We have sent out a clear message that the theft of council assets will not be tolerated. The theft of metal bins is far from a victimless crime, they cost everyone from residents who have their waste collection service disrupted to the taxpayers who ultimately foot the bill for the replacements.”

Phil Cleary, Chief Executive of SmartWater, said: “This is a fantastic result that demonstrates the forward thinking of Tower Hamlets Council. Putting a stop to these thefts has saved council budget, which can now be used elsewhere, so this really benefits everyone - everyone except the thieves.”

**SMARTWATER TO HELP DETEY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Police Scotland has unveiled details of a pioneering project to tackle domestic violence. SmartWater asset markers, spray systems and transferable greases will be used in combination by officers in East Dunbartonshire as a way of protecting women from abusive partners and detecting offenders. SmartWater will be used to assist with the identification of potentially abusive partners who may be in breach of their bail conditions.

Funding for the project has been provided by East Dunbartonshire Council via ‘Empowered’ – a multi-agency partnership group whose remit is to develop an integrated and strategic approach to the elimination of violence against women, and provides services to women and children affected by abuse in East Dunbartonshire.

Chief Inspector Rob Hay from Police Scotland said: “What we are seeking to achieve is a reduction in the number of victims of this type of crime by focusing our efforts towards targeting repeat offenders and serial offenders. We want to make our position absolutely clear that this type of behaviour is unacceptable and that, with our partners, we will continue to challenge those who are responsible.”

Chair of Empowered, Madeleine Sedgwick, said: “I am thrilled that we have been able to help fund and support this exciting and innovative new technology which will contribute hugely to ensuring the safety of domestic abuse victims in East Dunbartonshire.”

**SCRAP DEALER JAILED FOR 15 MONTHS**

A “brazen” scrap metal dealer has been jailed for 15 months after being found guilty of taking in stolen metal, including SmartWater-marked crematorium plaques which he cut up into pieces to disguise them.

Joseph Collier (72) from Dulwich was sentenced at Isleworth Crown Court after he was found guilty at an earlier hearing. Police raided Collier’s DSM Scrap Metal Yard in Croydon after a tip-off from Croydon Trading Standards officers and discovered a stolen bronze dragon, a statue of Jesus and hundreds of memorial plaques that had been stolen from cemeteries across the South East of England.

Whilst on bail and awaiting trial police suspected that Collier was continuing to trade in stolen metals, so a covert operation was planned in partnership with SmartWater Investigators to catch him in the act. Undercover officers attempted to sell SmartWater-marked lead and cable to Collier, making it clear that the items were stolen as he was accepting them. He was subsequently re-arrested.

After the sentencing, Sergeant George Shannon from Croydon Police, who led the investigation, said: “I can only describe Collier’s attitude throughout this whole process as brazen. He tried to deny any knowledge of receiving stolen items, but some of the memorial plaques even had the mud and wall plugs attached where they’d been prized from the graves. There was little doubt that he knew they were stolen and he had absolutely no regard for the law.”

**THE CRIME FIGHTING COMPANY**

Our philosophy is simple – the more criminals we help to convict, the more SmartWater acts as a powerful deterrent. We offer a range of cutting-edge forensic security services and traceable liquid products to both detect and deter criminal activity.

If you require our assistance please contact us on 0800 521 669 or email enquiry@smartwater.com

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