



# Catalytic Converter Theft

Presented by:

Utah Attorney General's Office

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# Crimes Against State Economy Task Force (C.A.S.E)



# CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT CASES 2018-2021

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**2018 – 110**

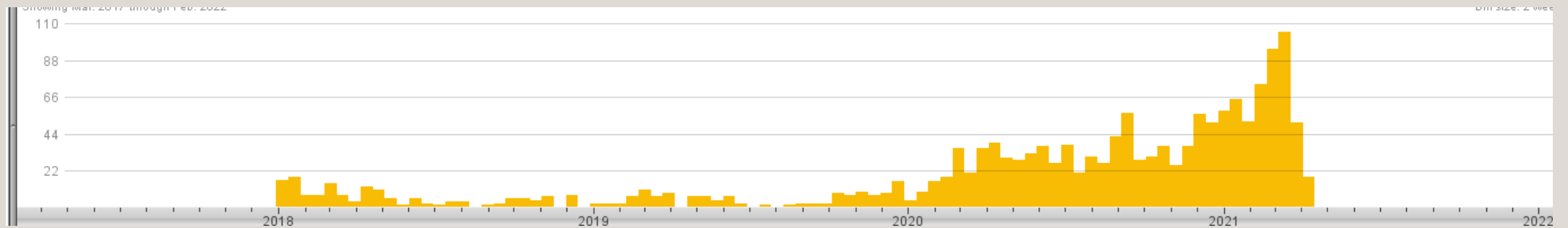
**2019 – 118**

**2020 – 654**

**2021 – 494\***

**Total Cases: 1376**

**\* to September 1**





# The problem

- ▶ Catalytic converters are “Suspect metals” (76-6-1402)
- ▶ Legitimate scrap metal and recycling industry
- ▶ Lack of Law Enforcement investigative tools available
- ▶ Shadow economy
- ▶ Buying and selling catalytic converters on e-commerce platforms

# Operation: Urban Mining April 26<sup>th</sup> through May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021



- ▶ Utah Attorney General's Office
- ▶ Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Investigations
- ▶ Sandy City Police
- ▶ Unified Police Department
- ▶ West Jordan Police Department
- ▶ West Valley Police Department

# Urban Mining Operation Results

- 13 Compliance Checks
- 124 stolen converters recovered.
- 5 bags of material (Contents from inside of cats)
- 3 custodial arrests
- 13 criminal violations
- 6 warnings
- Only 30.78% of purchasers were in compliance with statute.
- 5 undercover transactions
- Executed search warrants
  - 1 storage unit
  - 1 vehicle
  - 1 mobile phone
- Received more than 1100 inquiries to CASE undercover advertisements



# Proposal in Brief

- Collect data on purchase of catalytic converters at the transaction point.
- Hold period on converters commencing with recording of transaction.
- Limit sales of converters to scrap metal dealers, auto recyclers, and owners of vehicles
- Creates a presumption that catalytic converters are stolen if
  - 1. Information is not collected at purchase; or
  - 2. Purchaser exceeds number of individual purchases in a 7-day period.
- Provide brief, easy training for any scrap metal and auto recyclers.

Questions?

