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## **CHP says copper thefts blacking out freeways**

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(03-06) 08:28 PST Los Angeles (AP) --

The California Highway Patrol says copper thieves targeting freeway lighting are plunging Southern California roadways in the dark.

CHP Officer Jennifer Hink says freeway wire theft is occurring an average of once a week. She says those stranded in conked out vehicles at night are facing dangers on Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties.

The latest theft was Monday at the Riverside and Orange freeway interchange. Some 2,600 feet of wiring, worth about \$800, was taken and lights in the area are out of service.

Copper wiring is fetching about \$3 a pound at recycling facilities.

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