



More Than \$38,000 In Beer Kegs Stolen

NBC 4

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- A local beer distributor said it lost more than \$38,000 in empty beer kegs.

From Guinness to Labatt Blue, Hill Distributing brings beer to your table or tap, **NBC 4's** Patrick Preston reported.

Officials said thieves cut through a chain link fence, scaled another and stole as many as 300 kegs from an outside storage area -- but not all at once. "(They took) three, four, five at a time," said Chuck Hill Jr.

The thefts occurred for weeks in small numbers before the company realized the extent of the problem.

"All of a sudden we started finding empty skids," Hill said.

At a cost of about \$150, the kegs can be stolen and sold for scrap aluminum at a fraction of the price. But a fraction of 300 kegs can add up fast.

"The person accepting it is really where the problem is because the keg isn't worth anything unless somebody's going to sell it for a redeemable value," Hill said.

Hill valued the stolen kegs at more than \$38,000.

Beyond adding 6 feet and additional razor wire to the fence, Hill said he doesn't want to discuss what he's doing to stop the thefts. But he's intent on seeing the thefts end.

"I wish I (knew where the kegs are going) I'd love to find out," Hill said.

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