Caught in the Act

Two Suspects Arrested for Driving While Burning

During a routine traffic stop off of highway 72 in Georgia, Corporal Spitzer of the Spalding County Sheriff's Department recognized several copies of DVDs for movies that are currently still in theatres sitting on the floor of the side passenger seat. When questioning the passengers the driver told Cpl. Spitzer that he “swore he did not know what any of the stuff in his car was, he was just doing a favor for a buddy by dropping off the items at his house”. The officer was not buying into the suspect’s story and at that moment he noticed a strange humming noise coming from the rear of the suspect’s vehicle. Upon opening up the back doors, eight discs promptly popped out of a burner tower signaling that the burning was complete. After further inspection of the vehicle the officer came to the realization that the suspects were using a laptop set up on the front dashboard to program exactly which CDRs and DVDRs to burn. Essentially, the suspects were creating product on the road while on route to sell them on the street. They even had a portable DVD player in the car for viewing the freshly made DVDs to ensure they worked properly. By the end of the traffic stop, Corporal Spitzer seized the suspect’s portable DVD player, a power inverter, 8 burners, 550 blank CDRs, 94 counterfeit CDRs, 133 pirated CDRs and 724 DVDRs.

\[\text{For additional copies of the enforcement newsletter please contact Jaelyn Knag at}  
202-775-0101 \text{ or at jknag@riaa.com} \]

\[\text{Recording Industry Association of America, 1330 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036} \]
Featured Investigation of the Month

Bloods and Crips Join Forces
Criminal Enterprise Uncovered at Local Swap Meet

Indoor swap meet on Euclid Street in San Diego. Caravan of law enforcement going to the swap meet for the final bust.

An indoor swap meet has played host for a hot bed of criminal activity on Euclid Street in San Diego for over a year, the sales of contraband at the swap meet include guns, drugs, counterfeit merchandise and pirated music and movies. At the request of the MPAA and RIAA the San Diego Police Department launched an aggressive enforcement plan in order to combat the ongoing criminal presence and help stop the piracy problem. Shortly after starting the investigation the SDPD realized that piracy investigations and arrests were leading to criminal investigations with the piracy suspects involved in narcotics, weapons, assaults and other serious crimes.

During the month of November, 2005 a search warrant was served at the indoor swap meet, pirated/counterfeit property was seized and several suspects were arrested. An injunction was also obtained against the property owner’s deeming the indoor swap meet as a nuisance property. The owners of the property were given steps to take to protect the public safety of the citizens shopping at the swap meet and to deter the criminal activities inside the building and out. From November 2005 to the present time criminal activity continued and Officer Harper of the San Diego PD routinely made arrests. Suspects involved in the manufacturing, distribution and sales of pirated discs stood in the public parking lot openly committing these violations.

In a twist to the case it was soon realized that some of the suspects in the investigation were gang members, known associates or associates of gangs, predominately various clicks of the Bloods and even one Crip member. It was also discovered that many of the suspects from different gangs were working together in a common cause to make, distribute and sell pirated discs.

As the investigation neared to a close in June, San Diego PD decided to utilize informants and undercover officers to make purchases of pirated items, identify suspects and identify locations to be searched. Suspects were not going to be arrested until enough evidence had been gathered.

During the month of July attentions were turned to the two principal suspects in the investigation. While investigating the first of the two suspects it was found that he was on probation so after a search of his residence a gun, marijuana, pirated materials and replicating activities were recovered. The other main suspect was a member of the Crip’s gang and was currently on probation when he was arrested and found with replicating equipment, marijuana and pirated CDs and DVDs. In the end nine suspects were arrested, 619 CDRs, 383 DVDs and replicating equipment was seized as well as marijuana, guns, and 9 cars were impounded. Additional product was also seized during the course of the twelve month investigation.
Regional Activity

Nationwide Enforcement Activity

This is a highlight of some of the enforcement activity conducted by various law enforcement agencies across the country.

‘We’re In the Money’

Broadway Burner Lab Takedown

While executing a search warrant at a burner lab on Broadway in New York City the NYPD and the RIAA discovered $146,000 in US currency. The burner lab was discovered through several undercover purchases made days before the bust. The burner lab was fronting as a variety retail store but it really was a full blown piracy lab.

Seized in the search were: 1 Tower totaling 2 Burners, 1 Shrink Wrap Machine, 1 Heat Gun, 1 Color Printer, 1 Scanner, 1 Box Raw Materials containing Blanks and Jewels, 420 Pirate CDRs, 100 Latin Molded Pirate CDs, 144 Latin Pirate Music DVDRs and $146000.00 USC. Two suspects were arrested and are currently awaiting trial.

That day’s seizure began with RIAA investigators witnessing the vendor selling illegal product to several different people on the street. After witnessing those events RIAA investigators placed a call to the Dallas PD requesting that officers be sent to the location. Officer Tyler and Officer Malon arrived and witnessed Investigator Culp make an undercover purchase of 4 DVDs, "Akeelah & The Bee," "M 3," "Omen," "The Fast & The Furious," for $20.

Following the undercover purchase, Dallas PD officers arrested the suspect. Charges are pending for violation of the Texas’ actual name and address statute.

Busted...Again

Suspect Violates Probation

A known pirate was picked up in a parking lot on Euclid Avenue in San Diego on July 21st after Officer Harper of the San Diego PD observed the suspect pass a spindle containing discs to another unknown male. The suspect was previously arrested in January of 2006 for piracy by Officer Harper and was out on bail on felony probation. The suspect was contacted and detained for investigation during which Officer Ray obtained written permission from him to search his house. During the search of the residence officers on the scene seized 339 DVDs, 300 CDs, 26 CD Masters, 13 DVD wrappers displaying counterfeit trademarks, 84 blank DVDR discs, 11 blank CDR discs and 1 Burner. In addition to the piratical products seized, 32 ounces of Marijuana were also confiscated with a street value of approximately $600 dollars and a revolver. (This incident involves the suspect from the indoor swap meet investigation featured on page two)
Three Strikes and Your Out
Garage Door is Shut for Storage Center Suspect

A suspect is pending arrest for the third time for music piracy in Philadelphia. On June 12th, Lower Chichester PD contacted RIAA investigators after receiving information about a man selling illegal CDs and DVDs from a local storage garage. A plan was put into action to patrol the parking area of the storage garage. While on patrol, Officer Zwirizina observed several subjects gathered near a garage door. As he neared the open door, he heard a man yell to the other subjects “everyone out” Before the suspect was able to close the garage door, Officer Zwirizina observed several stacks of CDs and DVDs inside the garage. While waiting for a search warrant, he secured the storage garage and waited for backup. Lower Chichester PD, assisted by RIAA investigators, executed the search warrant and confiscated 2,132 counterfeit CDRs, 69 counterfeit music DVD-Rs, and 2,500 counterfeit DVD-Rs. The storage garage was set up to resemble a “store” with product displayed on tables and shelves. Inside a locker were pairs of Timberland Boots and Roca-wear clothing (which were most likely counterfeit also).

Guns, Dope and Music

Everyday we see more and more cases involving guns, dope or both. During a recent investigation three handguns were seized along with marijuana, cash, 82 pirated Urban CDRs and 1049 DVDs during a seizure and arrest at a residence in Longview, Texas on the 20th of July. An officer during a routine traffic stop discovered a case of DVDs stowed in the front seat of the suspect’s vehicle. After seizing the DVDs the officer obtained a search warrant and called in the help of RIAA Investigators from the Dallas field office. While in the residence of the suspect, officers seized additional DVDs, CDs, two computers, scales, cash, 10+ oz. of marijuana and the three weapons. After listening to a selection of the CDs and identifying them as pirated the suspect was arrested and charged with violation of the Texas actual name and address statute.

Residential Burner Lab Closed
Ten Towers Seized

A residential burner lab was shut down after it was discovered during a vendor street arrest in Los Angeles on July 21st. LAPD Anti-Piracy Unit with assistance from RIAA Investigators arrested the suspect after observing him sell pirated merchandise on Wall Street. After reviewing the evidence and identifying it as in fact pirated, the investigators and LAPD followed up with a search warrant to the suspect’s house. At the residence over 3,023 CDRs, 12,955 DVDs and 83 Burners were seized leading to the suspect being charged with failure to disclose origin of recording or audiovisual work.
July Statistics

*Please note the following statistics are for data entered in the month of July only.

As training increases across the nation there is an ongoing trend of an increase of incidents resulting from Law Enforcement as a source of the crime.

The seizure of burners is one of the best way to cut down on piracy in the streets. Burners can be used to produce and create hundreds of thousands of pirated or counterfeit CDRS, DVDRs and music DVDRs. By seizing burners you are directly cutting down on the number of product being produced at any given location.
Just like in most narcotic investigations the majority of arrests are made on the low level or distributor side, in music piracy cases our low level/distributors are street vendors. Street vendors are often the easiest to find with pirated product and they are most likely to be repeat offenders. They also can become a good source of information for our investigators to get to the manufacturers.
Future Training

Upcoming training will be held in the following locations:

**California**
San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Institute (SDRPSTI)
Miramar College (Four hour class, Post Certified.)
October 3 and November 7, 2006
Classes open and provided at no charge
10410 Black Mountain Road
San Diego, CA 92126
Class information: Ted Borkowski, 619-388-7962
http://www.miramar.sdccd.cc.ca.us/programs/adjut/ 

**South Carolina**
Sept 12th the will be an eight hour class on "Piracy and Counterfeiting, their Links to Organized Crime and Terrorism," The training is being hosted by the Charleston Police Department, Charleston, SC please contact Lt. Whiteker 843-577-7424. The class is scheduled for 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Sept 14th there will be an eight hour class on "Piracy and Counterfeiting, their Links to Organized Crime and Terrorism," The training is being hosted by the Aiken Department of Public Safety and will be located at the Municipal Conference Center, 214 Park Ave. S.W. in Aiken, SC. Your local contact person will be Lt. Phil Kestin - Aiken Department of Public Safety (803) 642-7765. The class is scheduled for 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Across the country in July training occurred in eight states resulting in 1,697 Law enforcement officers being trained. If your Law Enforcement department is interested in being trained please check above to see where a training session is located close to you, or call Mike George at 707.775.0101 to inquire about setting up training for your agency.

**North Carolina**
September 8th there will be a four hour legal class to assist with successful music piracy prosecution in North Carolina. This class is being hosted by the North Carolina Conference of District Attorney's and the contact person is Barbara Moore, (919) 733-3484, their Director of Training. CLE credit will be given for this training. The location for this seminar is the Alcohol Beverage Commission's training facility at 3333 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28206. The class will start at 9:30 AM and conclude at 3:30 PM.

**Virginia**
Investigator's Roundtable Conference, hosted by ROUIC. The conference is scheduled from September 12th - 15th, in Virginia Beach. For contact information go to invroundtable@aol.com or email Michelle.Winfree-Williams@vsp.virginia.gov. The conference will be held at the VA Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 Shore Drive, VA Beach, VA.

![Graph showing training incidents entered in July](image-url)
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Recording Industry Association of America, 1330 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036
A Little More Rock then Roll..

$20,000 in crack cocaine, 22 grams of marijuana and 2 semi-automatic handguns were seized after police realized that a street vendor was selling a lot more the just pirated CDs in the back of his Cadillac. On August 20th, RIAA investigator Andy Pappas received information about subjects selling counterfeit items in the parking lot of an apartment complex in Oxon Hill, MD. RIAA investigators responded to the area and set up surveillance and were soon observing several subjects gathering around a green Cadillac, the suspects would enter the trunk of the Cadillac to obtain discs which were then sold to vehicles passing by. RIAA investigators then contacted members of the Violent Crimes Task Force who were working in the area to have them respond to the scene. As the officers approached unnoticed, the trunk of the car remained open allowing the counterfeit items to be observed in plain view. The officers then stopped the three subjects and began to interview them. Over the course of the interview one of the suspects stated that he had “weed” on him and he was advised to leave the vehicle. Upon leaving the vehicle the suspect grabbed his rear pants pocket and looked like he was ready to bolt. Two of the officers then grabbed the subject and a struggle ensued, after the suspect was handcuffed and arrested, officers found a semi-automatic handgun in his back pocket. The other two subjects were placed under arrest as well. A search of the vehicle revealed 10.5 grams of crack cocaine and another handgun, as well as 228 counterfeit CD’s and 206 counterfeit DVD’s. The subjects were then transported to Oxon Hill Station where the two investigators responded to assist.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) is the trade group that represents the U.S recording industry. Its mission is to foster a business and legal climate that supports and promotes our member’s creative and financial vitality. Its members are the record companies that comprise the most vibrant national music industry in the world. RIAA members create, manufacture and/or distribute approximately 90% of all legitimate sound records produced and sold in the United States.

The Anti-Piracy Department of the RIAA investigates the illegal production and distribution of sound recording, which costs the music industry hundreds of millions of dollars a year domestically.

Consumers, retailers and replicators can report suspected music piracy to the RIAA by calling a toll free 24/7 live operator. Calls can be taken in English or Spanish at 1-800-Bad-Beat.

For additional copies of the enforcement newsletter please contact Jaclyn Knag at 202-775-0101 or at jknag@riaa.com

Recording Industry Association of America, 1330 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036
REGIONAL ACTIVITY

NATIONWIDE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

This is a highlight of some of the enforcement activity conducted by various law enforcement agencies across the country.

ROBBERY VICTIMS CAUGHT RED HANDED
REPORTED BREAK-IN LEADS TO TWO ARRESTS

On August 16th, Philadelphia PD responded to a radio call that a robbery was occurring at a Philadelphia home and a hostage was in the basement. When officers arrived at the home they noticed that the front door was locked and while standing at the front of the home, two individuals arrived and voluntarily opened the door with their keys and invited the officers inside to make sure that everything was okay. While inside the basement, officers observed in plain view an illegal manufacturing location. Both individuals were taken into custody and charged with felonies. Over 8,888 counterfeit/pirate CDRs, 36 counterfeit music DVDRs and 10,700 counterfeit movie DVDRs were seized. No hostage was found in the basement of the home. RIAA investigators were then contacted and responded to the police station to verify the evidence was counterfeit and to sign complaints.

WATCH WHERE YOU ARE SWINGING THAT SLEDGEHAMMER!
SUSPECTS FOUND HIDDEN IN WALL

Officers from the Atlanta PD obtained a search warrant on August 2nd for an automotive repair shop that was doubling as a manufacturing and distribution shop for illicit music and movies with the help of the RIAA/MPAA investigators. The location was also previously brought to the attention of the Atlanta PD for suspected drug activity in the past. After a brief barricade situation the Atlanta PD and the ATF gained access to the shop. One suspect was found hiding within the walls with $300 dollars in cash, two counterfeit $50 dollar bills and with a handgun within reach. A half pound of marijuana was also seized along with 58 high speed burners, 11,255 counterfeit CDs, 5060 counterfeit DVDs. In addition to the sound violations one suspect will also be charged with Federal Handgun violations. Both suspects were arrested and brought to the Fulton County Jail.

UNDERCOVER FENCING INVESTIGATION UNCOVERS BIG BUCKS

On August 18th, the White Plains PD, Westchester County PD, US Secret Service along with the RIAA and Target Inc. investigators executed a search warrant at a music store on Mamaroneck Ave in White Plains, NY. This warrant resulted in 2 arrests and the seizure of 4 Burners, 300 CDR's, 150 MPAA/DVDR's, raw material and a shrink wrap machine. Also recovered was over $100,000 worth of stolen property and $236,000 in U.S currency.

PICK HOUSE RESIDENCES PICKED UP
SUSPECTS ARRESTED AFTER RAID

Search warrants were served at three residences in Los Angeles county on Thursday, August 31st after surveillance and undercover investigation by the LA County Sheriff’s Department Special Projects Team turned up evidence of piracy. The three locations were operating a residential burner lab and a distribution “pick house”. After reviewing the quantity of product seized at each location the numbers suggest that after replication at one house the music was then going on to one of the other houses for distribution while the movies being replicated where going to the third residence for distribution. At the pick house the suspects had product spread on the floor of a rear garage in a manner where product was to be distributed to smaller vendors and wholesalers. By the end of the three home raid, three suspect were arrested, and 126 Burners, 7,543 CDR's and 10,917 DVDR's were seized along with raw material and equipment.
Regional Activity

Porn, Music, Movies and More
Retail Store Illegal Haven for Detroit Citizens

While some suspects choose to just sell illegal CDs and DVDs this store owner chose to try it all. After receiving a tip that illegal CDs and marijuana were being sold at a retail store in Detroit, RIAA investigators informed the Detroit PD of the information and they also filled the PD in on the previous raid three years ago for the sale of illegal CDRs. The Detroit PD Narcotics Division promptly began an eight month investigation which included several undercover buys of CDRs and DVDRs. After securing a search warrant the Detroit PD Narcotics Division and the RIAA/MPAA investigators entered the retail store and upon arriving they noticed a moderate sized lab for the manufacture and distribution of CDRs and DVDRs and also video pornography. Confiscated from the location were 1,431 counterfeit/pirate CDRs, 2,092 counterfeit movie DVDRs, 45 CD/DVD burners, 5,000 empty jewel cases, 3,000 blank CDRs/ DVDRs, 4 printers, and 4,000+ pornography movies. Police also confiscated 1-1/2 pounds of Marijuana, 45 digital drug scales, 3 firearms and $2800 in cash. The store owner was arrested and charged with felonies.

Burner Lab Shut Down

The RIAA NY office investigators assisted the NYPD’s 67th PCT with a court issued search warrant on Flatbush Ave in Brooklyn NY. The search warrant was obtained after informants made several buys at the location and the product was verified as counterfeit/pirate. In the process of executing the search warrant 5 arrests were made and 32,700 CDRs and 11,608 MPAA DVDRs were seized. An additional 35 burners and raw material were seized as well.

High Quality CDs Not Worth the Price
Seven Arrests At Flea Market in Stockton

Seven Arrests were made at a flea market in Stockton, CA after Stockton PD and RIAA investigators observed fourteen vendor spaces offering music CDs for sale on Saturday August 14th. After making undercover music purchases at all spaces it was confirmed that nine of the fourteen were selling counterfeit and pirate music. Officers then raided the infringing locations and seized 7,132 CDs and 248 movie DVDs. Seven suspects were arrested on music piracy charges. All of the illicit music CDs seized during the raid were high-quality pressed CDs that
LITTLE HAVANA
COPS SEIZE BOOTLEG MOVIES IN APARTMENT

Miami police seized thousands of illegal movies and CDs from an apartment in Little Havana Friday night. The raid on the apartment took place after one of the men allegedly sold an undercover police officer three bootleg DVDs for $10. Officers seized between 3,000 and 4,000 illegal DVDs and CDs, which they laid out for reporters on the lawn outside the apartment. Titles included movies still in theaters, such as *Miami Vice* and *Superman Returns*. One of the men also had a loaded pistol, which he told police he carried for protection from other bootleggers — and terrorists, said Miami Cmrd. Jose Alfonso. "They mainly target laundromats and little shopping centers," said Officer Raymond Gonzalez. "They pull over, open the trunk and set up. There's a huge demand."


Flea Market Clean Up
Fourteen Booths Shut Down for Piracy

Nine individuals were arrested during a raid at a flea market in Bolingbrook, IL... the flea market has been the subject of an ongoing investigation over the last year by Will County State's Attorney's Investigation, Will County Sheriff's Department Investigators and the Will County Gang Unit. Fourteen vendor booths were discovered to have illegal copies of music and movies with over 23,269 counterfeit/pirate Latin CDRs and 1,455 counterfeit movie DVDRs. Two more arrests are pending.

Above: Product sorted and waiting to be boxed by Will County, IL investigators

Left: Product for sale outside of a suspects car, is kept in suitcase like bags so it can easily be moved from the street to the car.

Officers labeling and counting product by type and genre, after a flea market bust in Illinois.

Drugs and Counterfeit Product Found
Driver Stopped During Routine Traffic Stop

During a routine traffic stop two suspects were arrested after Philadelphia PD found that the driver did not have a valid driver's license. After observing in plain view 396 counterfeit/pirate CDRs and 1,258 counterfeit movie DVDRs inside the vehicle police did a more thorough search of the car. Police then also found drugs and $4395.00 in cash. Officers contacted RIAA investigators to report to the station. RIAA investigators responded and assumed custody of all evidence.

Drug Dealer Reformed
Now Only Sells Pirated Music

A former narcotics trafficker told New Orleans Police that he is now only involved in the copying and selling of movies and music after being arrested on August, 22nd. This demonstrates once again the continuing switch criminals are making into the lucrative counterfeit and pirate market. The arrest was made after two search warrants were executed by the Louisiana department of Justice and officers from the New Orleans PD. The search warrants were based on an ongoing narcotics investigation on the location, however upon walking into the residence narcotics agents noticed a large reproduction lab with the computer equipment up and running and with the burners still connected. Agents then seized 4,913 CDRs, 3,896 DVDRs and
August Statistics

Product Seized
From incidents entered in August

Arrests By Region
For arrests entered in August

Left: The arrest rate in August increased by 62 arrests from last month with the Central and Southern regions seeing the most significant improvement.

Below: The main type of arrests this month is still street vendors. Street vendors are on the lowest level of music piracy and are therefore the easiest to find. They also can become a great source of information for investigators to discover more manufacturers and distributors.
August Statistics

As training increases across the nation there is an ongoing trend of an increase of incidents resulting from Law Enforcement as a source of the crime. This month we saw a increase of 30 incidents where Law Enforcement was the source of information.

Right: The seizure of burners is one of the best way to cut down on piracy in the streets. Burners can be used to produce and create hundreds of thousands of pirated or counterfeit CDs, DVDs, and music DVDrs. By seizing burners you are directly cutting down on the number of product being produced at any given location.
Future Training

Upcoming training will be held in the following locations:

**California**
San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Institute (SDRPSTI)
Miramar College (Four hour class, Post Certified.)
October 3rd and November 14th, 2006
Classes open and provided at no charge
10440 Black Mountain Road
San Diego, CA 92126
Class information: Ted Borkowski, 619-388-7962
http://www.miramar.sdccd.cc.ca.us/programs/adju/

**South Carolina**
Oct 9 Justice Academy Myrtle Beach, SC
Oct 11 Justice Academy Chesterfield, SC (Dept of Social Services,
201 N Page St)
Oct 12 Justice Academy York County, SC (York County SO)

*For more information about training in South Carolina please contact Jason Daniels at 678.402.2000

Across the country in August training occurred in eight states with 1,553 Law Enforcement offices being trained. If your Law Enforcement department is interested in being trained please check above to see where a training session is located close to you, or call Mike George at 202.775.0101 to inquire about setting up training for your agency.

![Incidents Entered in August](image)

Special Thanks

On September 6, 2006 in Chicago, Illinois the Financial Crimes and Fugitive Unit of the Chicago Police Department were presented a plaque for their assistance on numerous arrests and seizures over the last few years. Both units have helped with raids at flea markets as well as arrests at manufacturing and distribution points. Thank you again for all of your hard work!

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