



# OPERATION BOILING POINT THREAT ASSESSMENT

## FLORIDA



Operation Boiling Point is Homeland Security Investigations' (HSI) response to Organized Theft Groups (OTGs) profiting from Organized Retail Crime (ORC), cargo theft and other theft-related crimes that threaten the economy and security of the United States.



Organized Theft Groups are sophisticated criminal organizations who profit from illegally obtaining goods that are later sold for economic gain.



### ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME (ORC)



**\$4.1B**

**STOLEN GOODS<sup>1</sup>**  
(2021)



**ECONOMIC IMPACT<sup>2</sup>**  
(2021)

**40,639**  
lost jobs

**\$1.9B**  
lost wages

**TOP 10**  
**CITIES AFFECTED**  
**BY ORC INCLUDE<sup>3</sup>**

#5 Miami • includes  
Tampa and Orlando<sup>4</sup>



### DISMANTLING OF AN OTG

**AUGUST 2022** Melbourne PD and Florida Attorney General dismantled an organized theft group (OTG) that committed 28 thefts spanning 14 Florida counties from Duval County to Miami Dade County. The group stole merchandise from retail stores and sporting goods stores and resold them for low prices online.

### FLORIDA SENATE BILL 1534

effective October 1, 2022, Retail Theft 812.015 amended to include felony charges of:



**10 ITEMS:** Individually, or in concert with 1 or more person, commits 5 or more retail thefts totaling 10 or more items regardless of value from 2 or more retail locations within 30 days

**20 ITEMS:** Individually, or in concert with 1 or more person, commits 5 or more retail thefts totaling 20 or more items regardless of value from 2 or more retail locations within 30 days<sup>5</sup>



### CARGO THEFT



**#3 STATE**  
**FOR CARGO THEFT<sup>6</sup>**



**#2 STATE FOR**  
**FOOD AND DRINKS**  
**CARGO THEFT<sup>7</sup>**



### AUGUST 2022 FORT LAUDERDALE

Three subjects arrested for multiple cargo thefts of seafood totaling more than \$1 million. Suspects impersonated a buyer for supermarket, placed seafood orders from a supplier, and picked up the cargo from the supplier.

### TOP STOLEN CARGO ITEMS STATEWIDE<sup>8</sup>



#### FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Meat
- Seafood



#### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Appliances



#### BUILDING MATERIALS

Lumber

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## OTHER THEFT



### CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

Catalytic converter thefts on the rise throughout Florida

- **AUGUST 2022 WEST PALM BEACH** Suspects stole 33 catalytic converters from buses used to transport elderly and disabled people
- **AUGUST 2022 ST LUCIE** Two suspects arrested for stealing 13 catalytic converters, including eight from vehicles at one business
- **SEPTEMBER 2022 SANFORD** Suspects stole 36 catalytic converters from vehicles located at a business



### FUEL THEFT

- **APRIL 2022 TAMPA BAY** Six suspects arrested for seven gas theft incidents totaling \$60,000 by deactivating pump pulsars at gas stations
- **MAY 2022 ORLANDO AND TAMPA BAY** OTGs stole gas from stations by installing handmade devices into fuel pumps that manipulates the pump pulsars into decreasing the cost of the gas to as little as 5 cents a gallon



### AUTO THEFT

- **TOP 5** 2021 Florida one of the top 5 states in the country for auto theft by volume<sup>9</sup>
- **OCTOBER 2022 MIAMI DADE COUNTY** 13 suspects arrested for their involvement in stealing of 30 vehicles totaling \$1 million. Suspects stole vehicles from rental car companies, created fraudulent VINs to the stolen vehicles, and sold them to car dealerships.



### SOUTH AMERICAN THEFT GROUPS

**SOUTH AMERICAN THEFT GROUPS (SATGS)** target affluent neighborhoods in Florida and commit home burglaries. They also have been linked to ORC. Groups are sometimes known as “burglary tourists” and can comprise of Chileans who are able to travel to the United States on visa waivers.

1 Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) and Buy Safe America Coalition, The Impact of Organized Retail Crime and Product Theft in the United States, [www.rila.org/focus-areas/public-policy/study-retail-theft-balloons-to-over-68-billion](http://www.rila.org/focus-areas/public-policy/study-retail-theft-balloons-to-over-68-billion), 11/18/21

2 RILA and Buy Safe America Coalition, The Impact of Organized Retail Crime and Product Theft in the United States, [www.rila.org/focus-areas/public-policy/study-retail-theft-balloons-to-over-68-billion](http://www.rila.org/focus-areas/public-policy/study-retail-theft-balloons-to-over-68-billion), 11/18/21

3 NRF, 2022 Retail Security Survey – The State of National Retail Security and Organized Retail Crime, [www.nrf.com/research/national-retail-security-survey-2022](http://www.nrf.com/research/national-retail-security-survey-2022), 9/14/22

4 Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS) & Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Detecting and Reporting the Illicit Financial Flows Tied to Organized Theft Groups and Organized Retail Crime, [www.acams.org/en/organized-retail-crime/summary-14c8bdad](http://www.acams.org/en/organized-retail-crime/summary-14c8bdad), 5/25/22

5 Florida Senate, <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/1534>, 6/17/22

6 CargoNet, 2022 Supply Chain Risk Trends Analysis, [www.cargonet.com/news-and-events/cargonet-in-the-media/2022-theft-trends](http://www.cargonet.com/news-and-events/cargonet-in-the-media/2022-theft-trends), 1/12/23

7 Transported Asset Protection Association (TAPA) 2021 United States & Canada Cargo Theft Annual Report, 5/1/22

8 CargoNet, 2022 Florida Cargo Thefts, 1/10/23

9 National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), NICB Report Finds Vehicle Thefts Continue to Skyrocket in Many Areas of the U.S., <https://www.nicb.org/news/news-releases/nicb-report-finds-vehicle-thefts-continue-skyrocket-many-areas-us>, 9/1/22

