



HOLIDAYS 2017

Postal Inspectors Remind Letter Carriers... “Tis’ the Season to Be Safe!”

For many of us, the holiday season is a festive and joyous time of year. Unfortunately though, this time of year also brings out thieves and crooks. During this holiday season, we must remain vigilant and safe. We must be alert and aware of these opportunistic thieves stealing holiday packages and mail. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service has a few safety tips for you and tips to also help prevent mail theft this holiday season.

- Avoid becoming a target. Don't display mobile phones and devices while on your route. Avoid wearing jewelry and minimize the amount of cash you carry.
- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Don't wear headphones so that you are able to hear the sounds around you, potentially offering warning signs.
- Be aware of anyone following you. If you are being followed, immediately leave the area and then contact your supervisor. It is common during the holiday season for thieves to follow letter carriers, waiting and watching for packages to be left on customers' porches.
- If you are robbed, give the thief what they want. Nothing is more valuable than your safety and life. After a robbery, call 9-1-1 immediately, then your supervisor. Your supervisor will contact Postal Inspectors. When it is safe to do so, write down as many details as you can remember, description of the thief, the vehicle, tags, the direction they fled, etc.
- Be aware of deliveries to vacant homes or addressed to names of individuals you know are not associated with an address. Criminals may use the holidays to commit identity theft and use the mail to transport illegal items.
- Never leave mail, packages, or accountable mail in plain view inside your postal vehicle. Keep personal property in your vehicle out of sight also. All of these items are tempting to opportunistic thieves.
- Remember to secure all locks on your postal vehicle, including the cargo screen door. Never leave your postal vehicle running and unattended.

During the holiday season and at all times, your personal safety is what is important to us. A proactive approach to safety will help you give the gift of your safety to your family and friends this holiday season!