

USPS RETIREE

E-Newsletter



December 2019

Fraud Against Seniors

The FBI's Common Fraud Schemes webpage provides tips on how you can protect yourself and your family from fraud. Senior citizens especially should be aware of fraud schemes for the following reasons:



- Senior citizens are most likely to have a “nest egg,” to own their home, and/or to have excellent credit—all of which make them attractive to con artists.
- People who grew up in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s were generally raised to be polite and trusting. Con artists exploit these traits, knowing that it is difficult or impossible for these individuals to say “no” or just hang up the telephone.
- Older Americans are less likely to report a fraud because they don't know to whom they should report it, are too ashamed at having been scammed, or don't know they have been scammed. For example, elderly victims may not report crimes because they are concerned that relatives may think the victims no longer have the mental

capacity to take care of their own financial affairs.

- When an elderly victim does report the crime, they often make poor witnesses. Con artists know the effects of age on memory, and they are counting on elderly victims not being able to supply detailed information to investigators. In addition, the victims' realization that they have been swindled may take weeks—or more likely, months—after contact with the fraudster. This extended time frame makes it even more difficult to remember details from the events.
- Senior citizens are often interested in, and susceptible to, products promising increased cognitive function, virility, physical conditioning, anti-cancer properties, and so on. In a country where new cures and vaccinations for old diseases have given every American hope for a long and fruitful life, it is not so unbelievable that the con artists' products can do what they claim.

Source: <https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-fraud-schemes/seniors>



Your Frequently Asked Questions

Question: I receive the quarterly newsletter by mail. It was sent to an old address. Who should I contact to have my address updated?- Sarah V, Arlington TX

Answer: Great Question! Contact OPM at 1-888-767-6738 to update your address. OPM provides the Postal Service with the addresses of all retirees.

Do you have a question? [Submit your question](#) and we'll try and include it in an upcoming newsletter

Also check out [OPM's Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Your Wellness Corner

Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

You can take several steps to reduce your risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. When the temperature drops, take precautions to prevent your furnace from becoming a silent killer. Gas and oil-burning furnaces and generators produce carbon monoxide (CO). CO is an invisible, odorless, poison gas that kills hundreds every year and makes thousands sick.

Follow these steps to keep your family safe this winter:

- Have your furnace inspected every year.
- Install battery-operated or battery back-up CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home and check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.
- Never use a generator inside your home or garage, even if doors and windows are open. Place generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.



Source: National Safety Council

Postal News

The Postal Service has reported its financial results for fiscal 2019 (Oct. 1, 2018-Sept. 30, 2019). Here are some highlights:

- **Revenue.** Operating revenue was \$71.1 billion, up 0.7 percent from the previous fiscal year. The increase was driven largely by price changes and continued growth in shipping and packages, where revenue increased 6.1 percent. This more than offset revenue declines in First-Class Mail and Marketing Mail stemming from declining volumes.
- **Volume.** Total mail and package volume was 142.6 billion pieces, down 2.6 percent. First-Class Mail volume declined 3.1 percent and Marketing Mail volume declined 2.1 percent, while package volume grew slightly at 0.3 percent. This continued a multi-year trend of declining mail volumes and increasing package volumes, although package volume growth slowed considerably during the year.
- **Expenses.** Operating expenses for the year were \$79.9 billion, an increase of 7.3 percent compared with the prior year. This was driven by an increase in workers' compensation expense of \$3.5 billion, of which \$3.4 billion was the result of changes in discount rates outside of management's control.
- **Net loss.** The net loss for the year was \$8.8 billion, an increase in net loss of \$4.9 billion compared with 2018.

Source: <https://link.usps.com/2019/11/14/usps-finances-10/>