



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



PROTECTING YOUR MAIL

Mail theft and subsequent Identity Theft and Fraud are on the increase. Using the mail system today is much different than in years past. Sending and picking up mail the old way can put you at risk. Putting outgoing mail in the box and lifting the red flag will alert your letter carrier, but will also alert criminals to an opportunity to steal valuable information. Adhere to the following suggestions to protect your mail and reduce the risk of financial loss and identity theft.

- Use the slots inside your Post Office for your mail, or hand it to a letter carrier. Never put outgoing mail in your mail box.
- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight. If you are expecting a check, credit card or other negotiable items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to collect your mail.
- If you don't receive an expected check or other valuable mail, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- If your address changes, immediately notify your local Post Office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.
- Never send cash in the mail.
- Tell your Post Office when you'll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return. Or, ask a trusted neighbor to collect the mail each day.
- Report all suspected mail theft to a Postal Inspector and submit a police report.
- Consult with your local Postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked, centralized or curbside mailboxes.
- Consider starting a Neighborhood Watch program on your block. Exchange work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors. Ask if they will watch your home and mail.

If you see a mail thief at work or if you believe your mail was stolen, call police immediately and then call your local Postal Inspector at 877-876-2455 (press 3)

(The preceding information was provided by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service)