



CITY OF EUREKA

EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 11/21/12

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: EPD Issues Mail Theft Advisory

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Due to a recent increase in mail theft reports, the Eureka Police Department would like to remind its citizens of some steps they can take to help prevent becoming a victim of this crime. Many of these thefts have been occurring from unlocked mailboxes located on the front porches of residences. This includes outgoing mail that has been clipped to mail boxes or slots for pick-up by the mail carrier.

The holiday season typically sees an increase of mail and identity theft related crimes. Thieves look for easy cash sent in Christmas cards or financial documents (such blank checks and bank account statements) that can be used to obtain funds or steal your credit identity.

EPD recommends the use of locking mail boxes or secure mail slots to help prevent this crime, as well as the below tips.

The following information has been provided by United States Postal Inspection Service:

Follow these steps to Protect Your Mail

- Use the letter slots at your post office to mail letters, or give them to a letter carrier.



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- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. **Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight.**
- Don't send cash in the mail.
- Ask your bank for "secure" checks that can't be altered.
- Tell your post office when you'll be out of town, so they can hold your mail until you return.

Report all mail theft to a Postal Inspector.

Call 877-876-2455.

While on the topic of thefts, EPD would also like to remind people to secure their valuables and purchases out of sight and in the trunks of their vehicles while shopping this holiday season. Thieves roam the parking lots looking for crimes of opportunity. Don't make your vehicle a desirable and easy target by leaving bags, purses, electronic devices, gifts or other valuables in view.

Here are several other things you can do to help protect your car from theft:

1. **Don't leave your car unlocked**
2. **Don't leave your windows open**
3. **Park in well-lit, public areas**
Avoid parking in areas that are poorly lit or obscured. Thieves tend to avoid locations that are highly visible. This will also help keep you safer when you exit the car.
4. **Install an audible alarm system**
Thieves tend to avoid cars with alarms or anti-theft devices because they attract attention when they go off.
5. **Don't leave valuable personal property in your vehicle**
Leaving purses or high-value items visible in your car is a good way to attract thieves. If you must leave something of value in your car, keep it in the trunk or under the seats, where it is not visible to others.

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