

MEMORANDUM

Police Department



DATE: September 23, 2022

TO: Mayor and Council

THROUGH: Steve McHarris, City Manager *Steve McHarris*

FROM: Jared Hernandez, Police Chief *Jared Hernandez*

SUBJECT: Public Safety Announcement – Package Theft

This memorandum is being sent in response to Councilmember Chua's request for a Public Safety Announcement (PSA) about package theft. As a matter of standard practice, the Police Department shares public safety announcements with the community based on crime trends and as a component to our overall crime management strategy. The release of a PSA is sometimes based on crime trends, in support of existing national safety campaigns, and/or to simply engage with the community about public safety.

In response to recent package theft incidents reported to the police department and/or posted on social media sites, the Police Department released a PSA addressing package theft on September 21st. The PSA included the infographic below and safety tips. The Police Department will be releasing additional infographics in the coming weeks.



Mail and Package Theft Prevention Tips

1. Pick up your mail immediately after it is delivered. If you are not home, ask a trusted neighbor to watch for your packages and pick them up right after delivery.
2. If you share mailboxes in an enclosed area (i.e., apartment complexes, townhomes, etc.), ensure all doors are locked when you leave so unauthorized guests do not have access to the shared space.
3. Add a mailbox sensor that alerts you when your mailbox is opened.

4. Install security cameras with motion detectors that can alert you when a package is delivered.
5. Redirect packages delivered from couriers to pick-up locations:
 - a. For FedEx deliveries, using FedEx Delivery Manager redirect your delivery to a nearby FedEx office.
 - b. For UPS deliveries use UPS My Choice to provide specific delivery instructions to the delivery person.
 - c. For Amazon deliveries use Amazon Hub Lockers located throughout Milpitas.
 - d. For USPS deliveries sign up for delivery alerts or have your packages held at your local USPS office.
6. Put a “hold” on your mail when on vacation or out of town.
7. Purchase a personal package locker for package deliveries. Remember to secure your package locker to your front porch.
8. Opt-out of receiving credit card and insurance offers by calling 1-888-5OPTOUT. Thieves can steal mail from your mailbox to get credit card applications and other sensitive data.
9. Receive financial documents such as credit card or banking statements only online banking to limit the amount of mail you receive.
10. Check your front porch before going to bed for late deliveries. Do not leave packages out overnight.
11. Join an information sharing network such as Neighborhood Watch, NextDoor or Ring Neighbors Community.
12. Be a good neighbor. If you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood, call 9-1-1.

Always call the police if you notice any suspicious activities such as people walking from mailbox to mailbox, people loitering around shared mailboxes, or littered mail on the ground.