

JOPLIN



POLICE

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Jason B. Burns
Chief of Police

Media Notice

Date: December 22, 2014
Origin: Public Information Officer
Contact: Capt. Matt Stewart Ext. 696
Detective Dustin Holt Ext. 645
Phone: 417-623-3131

Mail Theft Update—1

We received information from one of the witnesses of a package theft about a possible suspect vehicle description that may be involved with the theft of mail and packages. JPD Officers followed up on this information and were able to identify a possible suspect vehicle.

After identifying the suspect vehicle, we were able to make a traffic stop on this vehicle and identified the occupants of the vehicle. It was then determined that JPD Investigators were already working a forgery case on one of the persons in this vehicle. This forgery case involved a victim in Newton County who had his credit card stolen from his mail. The card had been used at approximately 8 different locations in Joplin. We will submit charges for theft and forgery to the prosecutor for review of formal charges on the suspects that have been identified. We are continuing to follow up on this investigation and more charges may follow.

Investigators have recovered some possible stolen property that has not been reported as stolen. We are asking that if anyone has not received a package that they were expecting to please contact Detective Dustin Holt with the Joplin Police Department to determine whether we have your property. We have also developed information of additional package thefts that have not been reported to police. If you have ordered a package for delivery by Christmas and live in the Arbor Hills or the Westberry Square area, and you have not received that package, we are asking that you call your local law enforcement and make a report.

No arrests have been made yet with this investigation. Once arrests have been made or charges have been filed, we will release the names of those involved.

The Joplin Police Department has recently taken several reports of mail and other parcels being stolen from residences. The reports have indicated that mail is being taken from mailboxes in residential areas and that packages that are left at residences have also been taken.

We would like to remind everyone of some helpful hints to try and prevent your mail or other packages from being tampered with.

- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight. If you're expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- If you change your address, immediately notify your Post Office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.
- Don't 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.
- Consider starting a neighborhood watch program. By exchanging work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors, you can watch each other's mailboxes (as well as homes).
- Consult with your local Postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked centralized or curbside mailboxes.
- Most parcel carriers such as Fed-Ex and UPS allow for special instructions to be left whenever a package is being delivered. This could include having them place your package in a hidden place at your residence.
- Consider having your package delivered to someone that you trust if you know that you will not be home whenever the package is to be delivered.

If anyone has any information about any of these thefts, please contact the Joplin Police Department. You can contact us via phone at 417-623-3131, on our web page at www.joplinpolice.org, or on our Facebook page at [www.facebook/JoplinPD](https://www.facebook.com/JoplinPD).

