

## PAY ATTENTION TO PACKAGE DELIVERY DATES

Parcel packages are most vulnerable when left unattended at the home. With internet shipping increasing daily, more and more parcel packages are stolen by thieves who follow delivery trucks and steal unattended packages.

## PARTICIPATE IN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

If you have a Neighborhood Watch program in your area, consider joining. If you don't, talk to your neighbors about watching out for one another.



*This brochure used information adapted from the American Crime Prevention Institute.*

## Sign Up for Notifications

The Ukiah Police Department's mission is simple: to make Ukiah as safe as possible. If you have any suggestions or comments about how we can improve, please let us know.

If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button at [www.ukiahpolice.com](http://www.ukiahpolice.com).

## Who Do I Call?

### Emergency 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 for any life-threatening emergency or crime in progress.

### Non-Emergency (707) 463-6262

Report suspicious activity and/or crimes that have already occurred.

### Business Office (707) 463-6241

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm



## Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

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Community Service Officer & Business Liaison  
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## Ukiah Police Department

# Preventing Mail Theft

*Keep Your  
Information Secure  
to Prevent Identity Theft*



# PROTECT YOUR MAIL TO PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT

## #1 WHITE COLLAR CRIME

Identity theft is the number one white collar crime in the U.S., and a third of all identity theft cases occurs via the mail. For identity thieves, stealing someone's mail is a low-risk crime (often only a misdemeanor theft), with the potential for a high return.

## WHAT DO MAIL THIEVES WANT?

Identity thieves look for the following types of mail:

- Mail with personal identifying numbers, such as Social Security Numbers (SSN), bank account numbers, medical account identification numbers
- Personal checks that have been written to pay bills so they can alter the checks and cash them. Credit and debit cards to activate and use
- Boxes of blank checks
- Credit card offers and applications
- Check and savings account statements
- Phone and utility bills
- Tax returns and statements

## HOW CAN YOU PREVENT MAIL BOX THEFT?

Maintain a clear line of sight from your home to the mailbox and remove delivered mail from your mailbox as soon as possible. Never leave mail in a mailbox overnight.

## TIPS TO HELP PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT

### FINANCIAL DATA

Consider having boxes of checks delivered to your bank branch for pick up, and sign up for electronic banking with direct deposits to minimize the amount of financial data in your mailbox. When you write checks, use a gel-type ink; it is more difficult to chemically alter.

### TRAVEL PLANS

If you plan to travel, ask the post office to hold your mail.

### YOUR MAIL BOX

Make sure your mailbox is in good condition and closes tightly, because mail theft is less likely if thieves can't see it. Consider purchasing an effective personal locking mailbox and use the lock!

It is possible to install a wireless communication mail chime that indicates when mail has been delivered.

### OUTGOING MAIL

Do not place outgoing mail in your own personal mailbox. When you use the red flag on your mailbox to tell the mail carrier to pick up the mail, it advertises the presence of mail to thieves, too. Instead, place outgoing mail in a USPS collection box.

### ONE PERSON'S TRASH IS

### ANOTHER PERSON'S TREASURE

Shred mail (using a cross-cutting shredder) going into your trash that may contain your name, address or other vital information.

### OPT OUT OF CREDIT CARD OFFERS

To "opt out" of receiving pre-approved credit and insurance offers from the credit bureau mailing lists call: 1-888-567-8688 or visit [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com)

