

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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SUFFOLK POLICE OFFER SAFETY TIPS FOR HOLIDAY PACKAGES

SUFFOLK, VA (December 10, 2015) With the holidays in full swing, residents are awaiting the delivery of packages from a variety of shipping vendors to help celebrate the season. Suffolk Police want to make sure that no one has their holiday plans disrupted by a thief taking those holiday deliveries and dampening your festivities.

Police note that the best way to stop this from happening is to always retrieve packages (and mail) as soon as it arrives. However, there are times where you cannot be home to receive the delivery. In those instances, here are a few safety tips that can be utilized to help protect that package following delivery:

- Send the package to the residence of a trusted friend or relative who you know will be home. Be sure that the friend is ready and waiting to retrieve the package when the doorbell rings.
- Ask the package delivery company to hold the package if you will not be home (many have local delivery centers). While we can't promise that this service is available, we do know that some companies will hold a package for up to 5 days.

- Request that your package is marked “signature required.” This requires the delivery person to stand by and wait until you’re available to retrieve the package.
- Mark the package with a value of \$100 or more, which will likely require a signature.
- Leave special instructions on where to deliver the package. A good place is on the side or back of the house, so that the package is out of sight from the road. Ask the deliver to take and discard the note with him/her or leave it with the package.
- Use a company that provides a tracking service and check online to see when it is scheduled to arrive.
- Have the items shipped to the nearest store for “in-store pick up.”
- If you have an understanding boss, have your packages delivered to you at work.

Residents are reminded to be vigilant during the holidays and report any and all suspicious activity to the Suffolk Police Department Non-Emergency Dispatch Number at 757-923-2350, option 0. If you see a crime in progress, call 9-1-1.

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