

Community Alerts

Provided by Crime Awareness Unit of the DeKalb Police Department

29 September 2010

Avoiding "Mail Thefts"

Mail Thefts are possible in any community on any given day. The DeKalb Police want to increase your awareness to decrease the possibility of you becoming a victim of this type of crime:

- 1) Ask your mail carrier what is the typical delivery times and pick up your delivered mail as soon as possible from your personal mailbox; Never let it overflow
- 2) If you are away, stop mail delivery through the USPS or ask a trusted neighbor to pick up daily and safely store it until you return
- 3) Consider installing an effective (easy, strong, hard to break into) personal locking mailbox and **USE THE LOCK** (research online or at local hardware store)
- 4) Consider electronic banking and direct deposits to minimize the amount of financial data coming into and going out from your mail box
- 5) Avoid putting outgoing mail into your own personal mailbox, frequently put outgoing mail into an official USPS collection box; if you have to mail outgoing mail in your box, **NEVER** put the red flag up on your personal mailbox
- 6) Shred all mail going into your garbage that contains your name, address, or other vital information
- 7) Review your credit card and bank statements closely and promptly; review your credit report regularly for possible fraudulent activity
- 8) Be actively aware of mail theft in your neighborhood; watch for thefts in progress and report them immediately to 911
- 9) Communicate with your neighbors on suspicious activity seen and always **CALL 911** for any suspicious persons, vehicles or activity seen



*** Remember if you don't inform the Police,
the Police don't know what's happening in your neighborhood. ***

