



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – POSTAL THEFTS ALERT

[Lancaster, Ohio, December 28, 2010] The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office is warning citizens to watch their mail. The office has received several reports of mail being stolen from mailboxes in residential neighborhoods in Violet Township.

Detectives have been investigating a recent series of mail thefts from residential mailboxes throughout the northwestern portion of Fairfield County. These thefts have not been generally discovered for weeks until the victim's identity is used in a fraudulent way. Personal information is being taken, along with checks which are then reproduced and cashed in other areas. These checks are then returned to the mail system or placed back in the victim's mail at a later time. Though many may be unaware, it is important to know that citizens are urged to be watchful and report any suspicious activity to the sheriff's office.

Sheriff Phalen reminds citizens to never send cash or coins in the mail. Promptly remove your mail after delivery, especially if you are expecting checks, credit cards or negotiable items. If you are not going to be home, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail. Consider starting a neighborhood watch program. By exchanging work and vacation schedules with a trusted neighbor, you can watch each other's property and mail delivery. "If you believe your mail was stolen, report it immediately to your local law enforcement agency and contact your postmaster," stated Sheriff Phalen.