

CITY OF CHINO HILLS



PRESS RELEASE

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MAIL THEFT ON THE RISE - PROTECT YOUR MAIL

The Chino Hills Police Department has experienced a significant increase in mail / identity theft during the last two months. Criminals steal mail in order to commit credit card fraud, cash checks they steal, and commit identity theft.

“Residents can take steps to protect their mail from thieves,” said Captain Robert Guillen. “Make it a priority to pick up your mail every day, as soon as you can, and never leave it overnight.”

According to Captain Guillen, if mail is left in the mailbox, the resident might not even realize something is missing until there is a problem. Chino Hills Police Department statistics indicate that Friday and Saturday are the most active days of the week for mail / identity theft.

Captain Guillen provided the following advice: have a neighbor or friend collect the mail if you won’t be home; hand outgoing mail directly to the letter carrier or take it to the Post Office and deposit it in the letter slots inside the Post Office; consider making payments online; never send cash in the mail; install a locked curbside mailbox after checking with the Postmaster on requirements; and, if you are expecting a check or credit card and it doesn’t arrive, contact the issuing agency immediately.

“Get to know your neighbors or form a Neighborhood Watch program so your neighborhood can work together and keep an eye out for suspicious activity,” said Captain Guillen.

Residents can visit www.usps.com/holdmail to request that the Post Office “hold” the mail during out of town visits, and schedule delivery when requested. Report suspected mail theft to the Chino Hills Police Department by calling (909) 465-6837; and notify a Postal Inspector by calling (877) 876-2455 (press 3).