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CITY OF PALMDALE *NEWS RELEASE*

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City of Palmdale Cautions Residents to Beware of Package Thieves

PALMDALE – The City of Palmdale is reminding residents to beware of individuals who steal packages delivered to homes by services such as the United States Postal Service, UPS, FedEx and others.

“If you do some shopping online this holiday season and expect some packages to be delivered to your home, it’s important to know there are some grinchies out there who may take them right from your doorstep,” said Crime Prevention Officer Ruth Oschmann.

According to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s department, this is the time of year when the number of stolen packages greatly increases,

“Thieves sometimes follow delivery trucks around, and when a package gets dropped off – they swoop in a few minutes later and swipe it”, said Crime Prevention Officer Kery German. “But there are some precautions you can take to make sure the presents you had delivered get put under your tree.”

Here are some tips to decrease the likelihood of becoming a victim:

- If possible, require a signature on all package deliveries.

- Write specific instructions for the delivery company on where to leave your package, for example, behind the fence or the side of the garage. UPS drivers can enter that information into their handheld computers for future deliveries.
- Have your package delivered to your work address or neighbor or relative who will be home to accept the package immediately.
- Some delivery companies offer a free service that will send you an email alert when your package is going to be delivered.
- FedEx also allows you to redirect a package to another address if you know you won't be home at the time of delivery.
- Start a Neighborhood Watch group with your neighbors so you can all keep an eye on each other's property and call law enforcement if you see anything suspicious. Palmdale residents can call the Neighborhood Services department at 661/267-5170 to get help starting their group.

"If you ever have a package stolen, file a report with the Sheriff's Department at 661/272-2400 and call the shipper immediately," Oschmann added. "Unless you insured your package, you may be out of luck getting reimbursed. That is why it is so important to take the precautions we've suggested to ensure safe delivery."