



# NEWS RELEASE

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UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON DIVISION PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2011

Contact: Postal Inspector Frank Schissler, 410-347-4710

### Postal Inspectors Investigate Incendiary Devices Mailed to Maryland State Offices

Two incendiary devices were mailed to Maryland State buildings on Thursday, January 6. One package was sent to the Jeffrey Building in Annapolis, and the other went to the Maryland Department of Transportation Headquarters in Hanover. When state mailroom employees opened the parcels, flames and smoke were released, and the employees received minor burns.

The U.S. Postal Service handles billions of pieces of mail each year without incident, and the likelihood of anyone receiving an incendiary device through the mail is remote. While the Postal Inspection Service responds to hundreds of reports of suspicious parcels annually, few items are legitimately dangerous.

To protect postal customers, items weighing more than 13 ounces must be presented for mailing to an employee at a Post Office retail service counter. Business customers who use postage meters may continue to use meter postage for packages of any weight and mailing method.

Postal Inspectors advise you to follow these steps if you encounter a suspicious letter or package:

1. Isolate suspicious items and secure the immediate area.
2. Note any writing or markings on the outside of the item, without disturbing it.
3. Contact Postal Inspectors and, if anyone is having medical problems or if smoke or vapors are present, also call 911.

Anyone responsible for mailing a dangerous device with the intent to kill or injure may be fined and imprisoned up to 20 years. If death results from the mailing, the death penalty may be implemented (Title 18 USC 1716 (j)(2)(3)).

If you have information about this incident, please call Postal Inspectors at 877-876-2455, option 2. Callers may remain anonymous.

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The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is one of the oldest federal law enforcement agencies in the country. For more than 200 years, Postal Inspectors have protected the U.S. Postal Service, secured the nation's mail system and ensured public trust in the mail. To learn more, visit [postalinspectors.uspis.gov](https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov).