



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

FORT WORTH DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2010

Contact: Postal Inspector Amanda McMurrey, 214-695-7386, armcmurrey@uspis.gov

Postal Inspectors to NM Residents: Hang Up on Scammers **Crooks claiming to be USPS employees looking for ID information**

Albuquerque, NM – Postal Inspectors are advising New Mexico residents to be wary of anyone who claims to be a postal employee and says you've won a prize, or says they need your personal identifying information. Regardless of who they say they are, never provide personal identifiers unless *you* initiated the call or are familiar with the business or requester.

Postal Inspectors in New Mexico have received several reports from consumers who were called by people claiming to be U.S. Postal Service employees. In one instance, the fake "postal employee" told the customer he had won a \$2 million prize but needed personal information to mail the prize money. Another call had a bogus postal employee announcing that a customer's mail delivery would be changed from morning to afternoon, then asked for the person's personal identifiers.

"Crooks know that consumers are becoming more educated about scams, and they're always looking for an agency or business that people trust," said Ft. Worth Division Inspector in Charge Randall Till. "For over 200 years Postal Inspectors have ensured the safety and security of USPS, and that includes obtaining prosecution for those who use its good name to defraud others. You can be sure we will be investigating these reports to find the scammers."

Postal Inspectors offer these tips to avoid scams:

- *Never* provide personal identifying information to someone over the phone if you did not initiate the call. Call the company back from a telephone number you trust – for example, the phone number listed on your credit card statement or on the back of your debit card.
- If you receive one of these calls or a similar suspicious call, report it to Postal Inspectors at 877-876-2455, option 4.

The Postal Service does not run sweepstakes or lotteries, and genuine postal employees will never call you to say you've won a prize. Further, if there are any significant changes in mail delivery, the Postal Service will notify customers in writing.

###

About the U.S. Postal Inspection Service

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.