



# NEWS RELEASE

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UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON DIVISION PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2011

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

### Postal Inspectors Investigate Incendiary Device at Washington D.C. Mail Facility

Postal Inspectors responded this afternoon to a package containing an incendiary device, which ignited at the Postal Service facility at 3300 V Street, NE in Washington, DC. Employees at the facility process mail destined to government agencies in the area. Inspectors determined the package had similar characteristics to the two packages that ignited a day earlier in Maryland. Today's package ignited during mail processing, but no employees were injured.

Postal Inspectors are investigating the incident with the Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department and Maryland State Police. Inspectors are screening mail at multiple locations in the area and coordinating their operations with the Department of Homeland Security, FBI, and other federal law enforcement agencies in these continuing investigations.

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 for 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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#### **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](http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov).