



For Immediate Release
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Tips to Prevent Thefts of Packages Delivered to Your Door

Harrisonburg, VA – The Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) has received several larceny reports of packages stolen after they were delivered to residences.

These packages were left on the doorsteps and delivery confirmation was sent to the resident. Prior to the residents arriving home these packages were taken by unknown suspects.

Package thefts are crimes of opportunity. HPD would like to remind citizens to take extra care this time of year, when having mail and packages delivered to their residence. Package thefts from doorstops and front porches during the day usually increase between the months of October and January.

There are steps you can take to be proactive in keeping your packages safe from theft.

1. Encourage family and neighbors to pick up packages as soon as possible after they are delivered.
2. Track your packages and try to be present at the time of their delivery. Many mail carriers allow you to track your shipment online:
 - Fed EX https://www.fedex.com/apps/fedextrack/?action=track&cntry_code=ca_english
 - United Parcel Service UPS https://wwwapps.ups.com/WebTracking/track?loc=en_US
 - U.S. Postal Service https://tools.usps.com/go/TrackConfirmAction_input
 - DHL http://www.dhl.com/en/express/tracking/monitor_shipments.html
3. You can often choose to have your package delivered to your place of business.

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4. Request for your package to require a signature for delivery rather than allowing the carrier to simply leave it at your door.
5. Both UPS and Fed Ex allow rerouting of packages. If you discover you will not be home when the package is going to be delivered you may be able to reroute or reschedule the delivery.
6. It may be worth the extra expense to insure your online shipments especially if they are expensive items.

For more information about crime prevention and everyday ways to reduce your chances of becoming a victim contact the Community Services Unit of the Harrisonburg Police Department at 540-437-2635.

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