

Suspicious Packages

Know How to Respond

The likelihood of you ever receiving a bomb in the mail or discovering an explosive device is remote. Unfortunately, a small number of explosive devices have been discovered over the years resulting in death, injury, and destruction of property.

What can you do to help prevent an explosive disaster? First, consider whether you or your organization could be a possible target. Motives for bombings are often revenge, extortion, terrorism, business disputes, or political/sociological change.

Keep in mind that a bomb can be enclosed in either a parcel or an envelope, and its outward appearance is limited only by the imagination of the sender. However, package bombs have exhibited some unique characteristics that may assist you in identifying a suspected device. To apply these factors, it is important to know the type of mail normally received by your organization.

Things to Look For:

- > Suspicious packages or articles may bear restricted endorsements such as "Personal" or "Private." This is important if the addressee does not normally receive personal mail at the office.
- > Suspicious packages or articles may have protruding wires, aluminum foil, or oil stains visible and may emit a peculiar odor.
- > Suspicious packages or articles may have an excessive amount of postage stamps affixed to them.
- > Letter type bombs may feel rigid, or appear uneven or lopsided.
- > Pressure or resistance when removing contents from an envelope or parcel.
- > Suspicious packages or articles may be unprofessionally wrapped with several combinations of tape used to secure the package. They may also be endorsed "Fragile-Handle With Care" or "Rush-Do Not Delay."
- > Suspicious packages or articles may have an irregular shape, soft spots, or bulges.
- > Suspicious packages or articles may make a buzzing, ticking, or sloshing sound.
- > The addressee's name and/or title may be inaccurate.
- > Suspicious packages or articles may reflect distorted handwriting, or the name and address may be prepared with homemade labels or cut-and-paste lettering.

If You're Unable to Verify the Contents, Addressee, or Sender of a Suspicious Package:

- > Do not move, alter, open, examine or disturb the article.
 - > Do not put it in water or a confined space such as a desk drawer or filing cabinet.
 - > If possible, open windows in the immediate area to assist in venting potential explosive gasses.
 - > Isolate the suspicious package/article and clear the immediate area until the bomb squad arrives.
 - > If you have any reason to believe a package or article is suspicious, do not take a chance or worry about possible embarrassment if the item turns out to be benign - Instead, immediately contact the UCSC Police Department.
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UC Santa Cruz Police Department

831-459-2231



Crimes in Progress:

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