

Attorney General James provides tips for New Yorkers to protect themselves from package theft

Submitted by the Office of the New York Attorney General

New York Attorney General Letitia James recently issued a consumer alert, warning New Yorkers about the rise of package theft and providing tips to protect consumers from porch pirates (or those who steal packages from people's homes). Package theft increases during the holiday season. James encourages all New Yorkers to take steps to protect their deliveries and report instances of theft to local law enforcement.

"Package and mail theft can be heartbreaking and put New Yorkers' personal and financial information at risk," James said. "As package theft spikes during the holiday season, every New Yorker should know how to keep their deliveries and personal in-



formation safe from thieves. I urge everyone to remain vigilant, and protect themselves and their mail by following our important tips."

As part of her ongoing efforts to combat theft and protect New Yorkers, the attorney general recommends the following tips for New Yorkers to follow to pre-

vent package theft:

- Always pick up your mail promptly when delivered. Do not leave it in your mailbox or on your porch overnight. If you are expecting checks, credit cards, or any other financial items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail if you are unable to do it promptly.

- Sign up for tracking alerts, such as USPS' informed delivery service, which provides email notifications for incoming mail and packages, to know when your package is scheduled to be delivered. When signing up for tracking alerts, verify that the URL you are using is legitimate. Scammers often solicit potential victims using fraudulent package tracking messages.

- If you cannot be home to receive a package, opt to have it

delivered to a secure location like a USPS Smart Locker or use the USPS hold mail service. Letters and packages will be held securely at your local post office until you return.

- Use a doorbell camera or video surveillance system to help deter thieves or assist law enforcement in identifying them.

- When mailing something important, consider requesting signature confirmation for the intended recipient or using the hold-for-pickup option, which allows the recipient to collect the package at their local post office.

- If you suspect your mail was stolen or see a mail theft happening, contact police immediately and then report it to postal inspectors by calling 877-876-2455.

Operation Christmas Child volunteers send Christmas joy to children overseas

Press Release

Area volunteers are celebrating the collection of gift-filled shoeboxes that will send a message of joy to children around the world.

Thousands of volunteers contributed to Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, by packing shoeboxes filled with fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items.

The global Christmas project will deliver these gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 100 countries, including many who are suffering from war, poverty, disease and disaster. Each shoebox is an opportunity to share the message of the Gospel and bring hope to children in need around the world.

Although drop-off locations

have closed for the season, there is still time to share hope and love with children overseas by packing a gift-filled shoebox online. Shoeboxes built online go to some of the hardest-to-reach areas in the world. Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific

age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child visit samaritanaspurse.org/occ.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love

in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 220 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

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