

## Suspicious Mail and Packages

The following characteristics have been found in prior suspicious USPS letter mail and/or packages containing bombs:

- Endorsements on the package or mail piece such as "personal", "private", "confidential", directing it specifically to an individual.
- Addressee's name and/or title may be inaccurate or misspelled.
- Usually this type of mail has excessive postage; they certainly don't want it stopped or returned due to lack of postage.
- The return address is missing or it is someone you do not recognize.
- Mail bombs may reflect distorted handwriting or the name and address may be prepared with homemade labels or cut-and-paste lettering.
- Letter type bombs may feel rigid, or appear uneven or lopsided.
- Some mail bombs have been found to have protruding wires, aluminum foil, or oil stains visible and may emit a peculiar odor.
- Parcel bombs tend to be overwrapped with several combinations of tape, with an irregular shape, soft spots or bulges and endorsed "fragile handle with care" or "rush do not delay".
- Sloshing sound, buzzing or ticking.
- Pressure or resistance when removing contents from an envelope or parcel.

If you are suspicious of a mailing and are unable to verify the contents with the addressee or sender:

1. Do not open the article.
2. Isolate the mailing and evacuate the immediate area.
3. Do not put in water or a confined space such as a desk drawer or filing cabinet.
4. If possible, open windows in the immediate area to assist in venting potential explosive gasses.
5. **If you have any reason to believe a letter or parcel is suspicious, do not take a chance or worry about possible embarrassment if the item turns out to be innocent – instead DIAL 9-1-1 to report the situation.**