



POSTAL NEWS

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202-268-2155
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POSTAL EMPLOYEES DELIVER ON UNOFFICIAL MOTTO

WASHINGTON, DC – The Postal Service’s Chief Operating Officer today applauded the tenacity of postal employees to deliver in spite of one of the harshest winters in recent memory.

“You are all familiar with, ‘Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds,’” Donahoe explained, speaking before the Board of Governors during their monthly meeting here, “That’s why our customers have unofficially given us that quote as our motto. It’s a reflection of how they see us. Over the last couple of months, we’ve had the chance to really put those words to the test. And as usual, our employees did a great job.” Donahoe said weather changes have hit hard everywhere since the beginning of the Holiday season in early December. “There were floods in the southwest; tornados in the Midwest; ice storms in the southeast, and as you may have noticed, the recent snow on the east coast,” he said.

According to the National Weather Service, above average temperatures in the western U.S. and cooler temps in the east have placed January in the record books. It was the warmest January ever for Utah and Nevada, with Arizona, California, and Oregon experiencing their second warmest January ever. For the eastern U.S., 28 states were much cooler than average.

Snowfalls have been one-and-a-half times that of normal from parts of the Southern Plains to the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. During February snowfalls in the mid-Atlantic through the northeast measured anywhere from two-and-a-half to three-and-a-half that of average.

Inspection Service Consumer Protection Initiatives

The Board also received an update on recent Postal Inspection Service consumer protection initiatives from Chief Postal Inspector Lee Heath. More than 3,000 investigations lead to 1,600 arrests last year. This resulted in more than \$2 billion in court-ordered and voluntary restitutions.

Heath said protecting children from sexual exploitation has been a high priority for years. Since 1984, 4,500 investigations have lead to arresting 3,700 child pornographers and molesters. Since 1997 investigations have saved 688 children from further victimization, but the threat continues through the Internet. In 2001, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and ADVO, as one of the nation's largest mailers, joined with the Postal Service to distribute Internet warning tip on posters to every post office in America.

To fight telemarketing and mail fraud promotions, the Inspection Service led the nation's largest consumer education effort by launching the "KNOW Fraud" nationwide postcard mailing campaign in 1999. This partnership with the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Justice and the American Association of Retired Persons.

A similar program was launched last August to reach two-thirds of the victims most vulnerable to scams – senior citizens. The "National Fraud Against Senior Citizens Awareness Week,' partnership with the Mullen Agency Ad firm and the Senior Action Coalition produced radio and television public service messaging that reached 50 million Americans. Fraud awareness flyers were mailed to three million seniors and their families. Hundreds of consumer-oriented organizations with websites catering to older citizens linked to the tips posted on usps.com.

Identify theft is the number one consumer crime in America. It involves acquiring key pieces of one's identification such as name, address, date of birth, social security number and mother's maiden name to impersonate victims and defraud financial institutions while destroying the victim's credit rating in the process. Thieves obtain this information by stealing mail, obtaining personal information from the Internet or from sorting through one's trash.

To promote Identity Theft awareness, last month, the Inspection Service joined the Postal Service's Consumer Advocate in the 5th Annual National Consumer Protection Week.

Family Violence Stamp Details

In other activity, the Governors set a price of 45 cents for the Stop Family Violence semipostal stamp that is scheduled to be issued this fall. This action complies with the requirements of the Stamp Out Domestic Violence Act of 2001, which directs the Postal Service to make available a semipostal stamp to provide funding for domestic violence programs A semipostal stamp is a stamp that is sold for a price that exceeds its postage value in order to provide funding for a particular cause. The difference between the sales price of a semipostal stamp and the First-Class Mail rate, less a deduction for the Postal Service's reasonable costs, makes up the contribution. Federal law provides that the Governors of the Postal Service

determine the prices of semipostal stamps. The Stamp Out Family Violence semipostal will be the third semipostal stamp issued by the Postal Service. Two others, the Breast Cancer Research Stamp, and the Heroes of 2001 Stamp, have raised millions in proceeds. Funds raised from the sale of the Stop Family Violence semipostal are to be transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services. The design of the Stop Family Violence semipostal is expected to be unveiled within the next few months.

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that makes deliveries to about 140 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$66 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world.

The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 43 percent of the world's mail volume - some 203 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven million customers each day at its 38,000 retail locations nationwide.