



# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## U.S. Postal Service Offers Tools for Today's Economy *National Consumer Protection Week Begins Sunday*

- What:** Postal Service officials will host an awareness event to celebrate National Consumer Protection Week. Officials will distribute DVDs and brochures warning against fraudulent financial schemes and tips to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft.
- Who:** Delores J. Killette, vice president, Consumer Advocate, U.S. Postal Service  
William Gilligan, acting Chief Postal Inspector, U.S. Postal Inspection Service
- When:** 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET  
Monday, March 2
- Where:** National Capitol Station  
Post Office (Lobby)  
2 Massachusetts Ave., NE  
Washington, DC 20002-9997  
North Capitol Street entrance  
Parking available on-street and at Union Station
- Background:** National Consumer Protection Week, set for March 1-7, is a national program led by the Federal Trade Commission to draw attention to issues and recommendations that help customers become smarter consumers of products, materials and services, and improve their knowledge of how to combat fraud of any type.

The U.S. Postal Service Office of Consumer Advocate and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are working to educate consumers about identity theft and fraudulent mailing schemes. The U.S. Postal Service will provide consumers with the tools and information needed to combat these types of crimes.

According to the National Consumers League, reported losses from one type of mail fraud alone – fraudulent schemes – quadrupled in three years. Each victim of this type of scam loses an average of \$4,000.

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An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation, 149 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes, six days a week. It has 34,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services, not tax dollars, to pay for operating expenses. Named the Most Trusted Government Agency five consecutive years by the Ponemon Institute, the Postal Service has annual revenue of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.