

Alberta RCMP remind residents to check their mailboxes

The newly operating Call Back Unit in the RCMP KDivision headquarters building is reporting that several calls have been received in relation to rural mailboxes which have been the target of thefts. While there is no one community that these thefts are associated with – citizens across the province are being reminded to check on their mailboxes daily.

Criminals who steal mail are targeting pre-paid credit cards, gift cards, cheques and documents that will make it easy for them to access your banking and other personal information. This time of year, thieves are especially targeting the pre-paid credit cards used by tax companies to deliver tax refunds to their clients, or refunds otherwise directed distributed.

RCMP urge citizens in the province to take steps every day to protect themselves from mailbox theft, and ultimately, identity theft:

- Check your mailbox daily and remove the accumulated mail.
- If you are expecting a parcel – consider having that parcel sent either registered mail, or to a business address where someone can accept the delivery.
- Consider picking up your on-line purchases at the stores you ordered from.

If your mailbox has been broken into, or tampered with, call your local RCMP Detachment and report the situation to Canada Post. If you believe that mail has been stolen from your mailbox:

- Contact the business or agency who you were expecting mail from including utility companies, banking organizations and credit card companies. This type of mail contains information that may lead to identity theft.

If you have information about this, or any other crime(s), and you want to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers by phone at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), by internet at www.tipsubmit.com/, or by SMS (check your local Crime Stoppers [www.crimestoppers.ab.ca/] for instructions on how to do it.) You do not have to reveal your identity to Crime Stoppers, and if you provide information to Crime Stoppers that leads to an arrest(s), the recovery of stolen property, and/or a seizure of illicit drugs, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

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