



March 30, 2018

## Report Suspicious Packages to Law Enforcement

*Since March 26, federal and local authorities discovered numerous packages containing makeshift explosive materials in the National Capital Region (NCR), highlighting the importance of understanding how to handle unfamiliar packages and report suspicious activity.* These incidents followed events in Austin, Texas, where explosive packages killed two and injured five.

- From March 26-27, 11 suspicious packages were sent through the U.S. Postal Service to various government agencies and military installations in and around Washington, DC. Packages contained a small glass bottle filled with black powder, a fuse, and a GPS device. None of the packages exploded or caused injuries and all tested negative for hazardous substances.
- On March 27, authorities arrested a suspect, U.S. citizen Thanh Cong Phan, in Seattle, Washington, for interstate shipping of explosive materials. Authorities continue to investigate possible motives behind the mailings.

*While most suspicious packages observed in the NCR are unattended bags or luggage not linked to an actual threat, all should be treated as dangerous until cleared.* If you discover an unfamiliar package, we recommend doing the following:

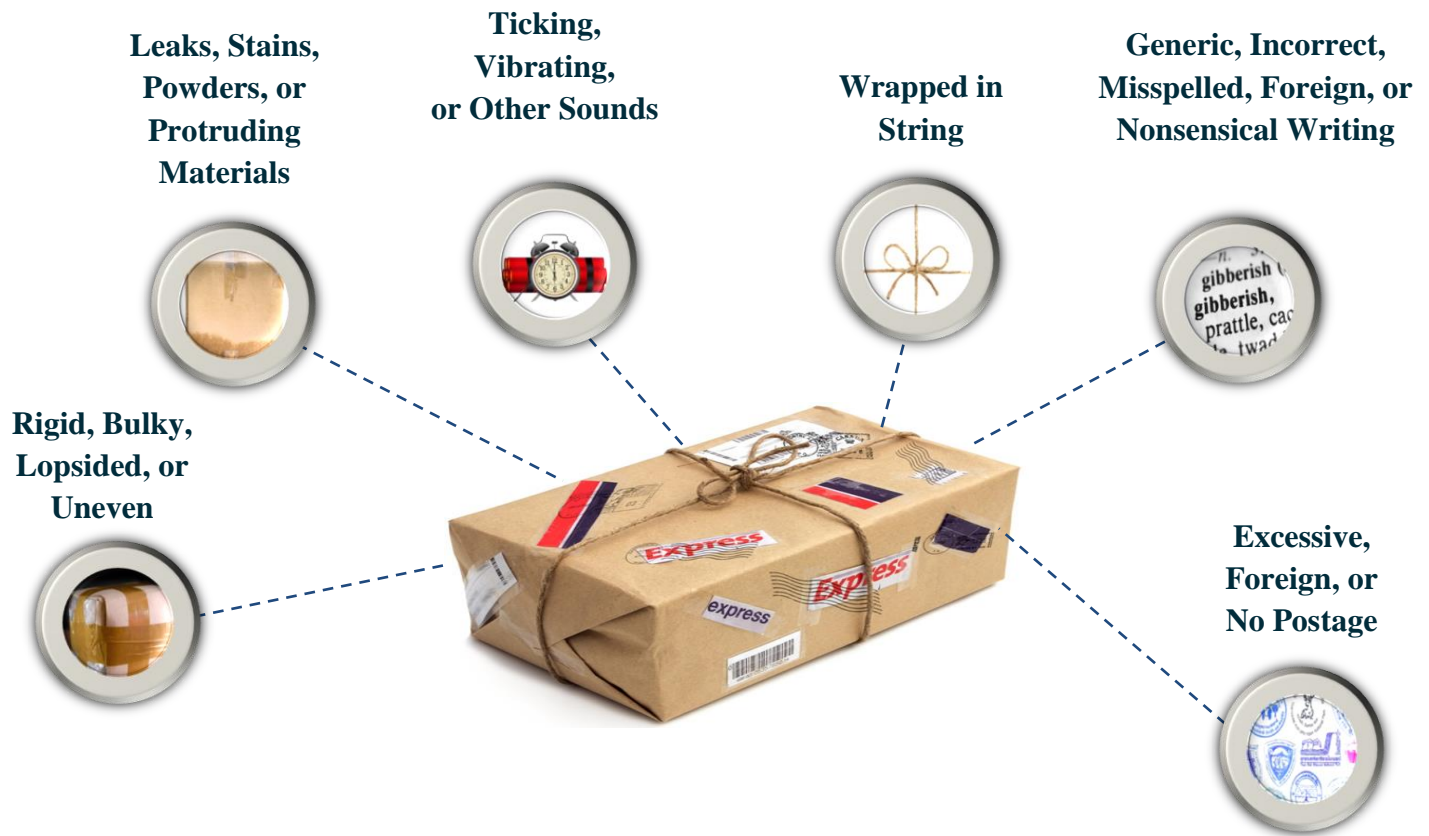
1. Leave the package where you found it;
2. Clear the immediate area and call 911;
3. If you handled the package, wash your hands with soap and water;
4. Isolate those exposed to the package;
5. Direct others away from the area;
6. Shut off ventilation systems to prevent the spread of dangerous airborne elements; and
7. Document the package's location and any other details for first responders.

Residents are encouraged to report suspicious activity to the Metropolitan Police Department by calling 911, 202-727-9099, or filing a report with [iWatchDC.dc.gov](https://www.washingtondc.gov/iWatchDC). Stay informed by signing up for emergency alert and warning notifications via email, text message, or voice. Visit [alertdc.dc.gov](https://www.alertdc.dc.gov) and click "Sign Up for Alerts."





## Suspicious Package Indicators



## What To Do

1. Leave the package where you found it;
2. Clear the immediate area and call 911;
3. If you handled the package, wash your hands with soap and water;
4. Isolate those exposed to the package;
5. Direct others away from the area;
6. Shut off ventilation systems to prevent spread of any dangerous airborne elements; and
7. Document the package's location and any other details for first responders.

