COMMUNITY ADVISORY UPDATE - MAIL THEFT

**Dates Occurred:** May 2015, June 2015, and September 2015

**Incident / Locations:** Mail Theft / Various University Hills’ Mailboxes

**Details:**

The UCI Police Department received multiple reports of mail theft from various residential mailboxes in University Hills in May 2015, June 2015 and September 2015. A suspect appeared to be targeting mail that contained official government issued documents, such as identification cards. It was also reported that credit card accounts had been opened using victim’s personal identification information.

The UCI Police Department issued a Community Advisory notification to the University Hills Community in June 2015 with information on the reported crimes and included a description of a suspect. In early September 2015, the Irvine Police Department detained and subsequently arrested a suspect who was found to be in possession of stolen mail from various University Hills’ mailboxes. The Irvine Police Department and UCI Police Department believe that this suspect is the person responsible for the mail thefts from University Hills.

Detective Chris Bolano from the UCI Police Department has been working closely with the Irvine Police Department and they have been provided with information about the mail thefts in University Hills that were reported to the UCI Police Department. If you have any additional questions or information, please call Detective Bolano at (949) 824-1161.

- Always use a blue post office collection box or deposit your mail inside the post office.
- Whether you have a home mailbox or use a post office box, you should always collect your mail on the day it is delivered. Never leave it in your mailbox overnight.
- Mail thieves look for bank statements and credit card bills, which can be used to create counterfeit checks or fake identifications.
- Thieves also look for personal checks enclosed in utility bills or other payments. Thieves take these stolen checks, remove the ink, and then fill out the blank check in their names and desired amount.
- Never send cash through the mail. When reordering checks, have them sent to your bank.
- When you travel, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- If you don’t receive a check, bill or other mail you are expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.

In emergency situations or during crimes in progress, dial 9-1-1 or use an emergency phone available on campus.

**WHAT IS THIS COMMUNITY ADVISORY?** Community Advisories are released by the UCI Police Department when certain events that warrant an advisory are reported on or near campus property. These Community Advisories allow campus community members to be aware of certain situations and to take precautions.