

MEDIA RELEASE

Bait Program Continues During 'Prime' Package Theft Season

June 18, 2021

On Monday, June 21, 2021, popular online retailer Amazon will be holding one of its biggest and most popular sales of the year – Prime Day. Now a two-day event, many people are expected to shop online for deals. Many other popular online retailers will be offering competing deals as well. With this expected increase in online shopping, the Washington County Sheriff's Office will be targeting package thieves across the county.

Working closely with the United States Postal Inspection Service, detectives with the Property Crimes Unit will be setting up a bait package mission in hopes of catching package thieves in the act.

These decoy packages are equipped with electronic tracking devices that allow deputies to track them after they've been stolen.

Detectives use historical theft data to determine which areas have the biggest problems with package thefts and target their efforts accordingly.

Just this week, a package theft was [caught on camera](#) in the Quatama neighborhood.

Detectives recommend the following steps to protect your packages:

- Schedule deliveries to arrive when you are home
- Have a trusted neighbor or friend pick up your packages
- Deliver packages to shipping stores or an Amazon Locker
- Install a security camera



Detectives from the Property Crimes Unit work proactively throughout the year to combat the problem of package thefts in our community. For the last six years, detectives have placed numerous bait packages throughout Washington County to deter potential package thieves.



SHERIFF
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