

PORCH PIRATES

Submitted by the RCPOA Neighborhood Security Committee.

The Holiday Season is upon us yet again. The estimate from the post office is that it will deliver more than 900 million packages. Add in UPS and FedEx, and more than 2 billion packages will be shipped between Thanksgiving and the end of the year. That's a lot of packages, and a lot of opportunity for porch pirates to snatch them.

The Neighborhood Security Committee (NSC) has put a list together to help you take a few measures to protect your packages as best as possible.

- 1) Track your packages. The US Postal Service, FedEx and UPS all have tracking number systems, showing you when it will arrive. Amazon also helps you keep track of your package's progress.
- 2) Have your packages held for pick up or even delivered on another day when you can be home.
- 3) Have your package delivered to your workplace, a friend's house or a neighbor.
- 4) Get a Porch Pirate Bag (available on Amazon), this is a 30" x 40" PVC reinforced nylon bag that locks to your front door or gate. Instruct delivery people to drop your packages inside, then lock it using the attached combination lock. Even though this bag could be cut open, it will take time and effort by the thief, so it could be an effective deterrent at \$35, a relative affordable experiment.
- 5) Use an Amazon locker as your delivery address for your Amazon purchases. It is a Free service, another plus. Here in Glendale the Whole Foods and the Rite Aid are a few locker sites.
- 6) Have your Amazon packages (only) delivered to the inside of your house using Amazon's Key Smart Lock Kit, which allows you to remotely unlock your door so a package can be delivered to the inside of your home. Understandable, not everyone will feel comfortable about this option, specially people with pets.
- 7) Have your Amazon packages delivered to your car. The car needs to be at the correct address and be equipped with Amazon's Key In-Car Delivery.
- 8) Smart doorbells can come in particularly handy, since most have motion sensor alerts, which will go straight to your phone. That will help you to see when your package is delivered and if a "pirate" is there to snatch it.

9) Since most "porch pirates" want to be done with their theft as quickly as possible, clearly visible cameras, motion sensors and alarms can act as deterrents.