

# Mail Bombs



Regular mail in Australia will undergo a basic inspection during the sorting stage, this inspection helps eliminate some suspicious mail items, however due to the volume of mail received and the increase of items being traded via internet transactions, not all suspicious mail can be eliminated at the sorting stage. Mail Bombs are normally designed to function when opened, they can be Explosive, Incendiary or Noxious there is a number of different trigger mechanisms that can be utilised to instigate activation.

There have been a number of advances in explosives in recent times, biological agents such as anthrax have also been sent via regular mail. Companies need to be vigilant and ensure persons responsible for handling and opening mail are familiar with procedures, and identify key aspects of what would make a package suspicious.

## Your Defence

Firstly, has the item arrived via the regular mail channels, items sent via courier services normally requires a signature, are addressed to an individual or company, are normally expected, and have a senders address.

- Confirm the item has arrived via the postal system
- Check the addressee if they are expecting the item
- Obtain as much information as possible
- Isolate the item
- Escalate the situation to your Chief Warden and or emergency services

Recognition Points for items arriving via regular mail includes:

- Excessive weight
- Excessive securing material
- Unknown sender
- Lopsided or uneven envelop
- Protruding wires
- Excessive postage
- Items do not have to have all these recognition points, however a combination of these items should be handled with caution and require further evaluation.



## Isolation Area

Items identified as suspicious should be carefully transported to an isolation area, away from staff. This should now be escalated to the nominated Chief Warden and or emergency services.

## Mail Bomb Recognition Points



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|--|---|
| <b>E</b> xcessive securing material    | <b>P</b> roper names & titles             |
| <b>X</b> cessive weight                | <b>A</b> ddress-handwritten, poorly typed |
| <b>P</b> rotruding wires or tin foil   | <b>R</b> estrictive markings              |
| <b>L</b> opsided or unevenly weighted  | <b>C</b> ommon words misspelt             |
| <b>O</b> ily stains & discolouration's | <b>E</b> ither unusual or foreign origin  |
| <b>S</b> tiff or rigid envelops        | <b>L</b> acks address of sender           |
| <b>I</b> s packaged expected           |   |
| <b>V</b> isual distractions            |   |
| <b>E</b> xcessive postage              |   |