

OVERVIEW

MAIL SECURITY ALERT

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THE RAYSECUR® MONTHLY MAIL THREAT reports catalog global open-source incidents reported to the media. Due to the lack of reporting to authorities, security leaders face sizable challenges in gaining a clear view of the types and volume of mail threats occurring worldwide. These reports serve to close that gap and provide timely information.

Threats from the mail, including letters and parcels, take many forms and are categorized by ten main substances.



April, 2023

Narcotics Involved in Over Half of Mail-based Threats

In April, the downward trend observed in March continued with fewer than normal reported threats. Threats that did occur were centered on legal actions brought against members of political parties and were likely in reaction to actions taken, or not taken by those legislators. The targets in receipt of these suspicious powder incidents were the offices in charge of the investigations. This points to the fact that a person’s political beliefs still cause mail threats across party lines.

More than 60% of the threats experienced in April were narcotics-related. Narcotics can be introduced in numerous forms, including powders and liquids both of which are easily transported by mail. With the increase in opioid and methamphetamine popularity, response procedures should not differ from those taken with powder threats.

International mail threats against residential targets saw a sharp increase of 37%. This is cause for increased residential mail safety globally.



United States Hazardous and Threat Mail

Police begin investigation after ‘threat letter’ found at Oxford High School

April 7, 2023 – Oxford, AL3

The Oxford Police Department has started an investigation after a letter containing threats was found on the Oxford High School campus Friday morning. In a press release Friday afternoon, Oxford Police Chief Bill Partridge said the letter contained a bomb threat and a discussion of guns on the campus. The high school was temporarily placed on lockdown but it was lifted around 2 p.m. and students were released from school early.



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Another threatening letter with white powder mailed to Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg

April 12, 2023 – New York, NY

A second threatening letter containing white powder was sent to Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg Wednesday afternoon – a week after he indicted former President Trump on dozens of felony counts, sources told The Post. The most recent letter was found in the basement mailroom of 80 Centre Street – the same address where the Trump grand jury met – and was addressed to Bragg, two sources familiar with the situation said. The white powder was later determined non-hazardous.

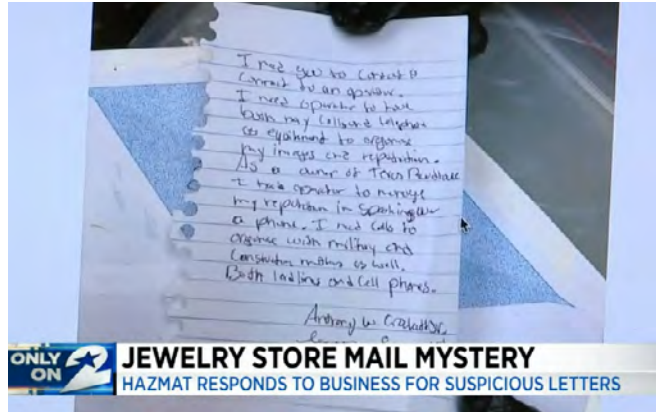


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FBI, Postal inspector looking into suspicious mail sent to Houston Jewelry

April 13, 2023 – Houston, TX

The United States Postal Inspection Service, the Houston Police Department and the Houston Fire Department assisted the FBI in Houston in a review of suspicious mail sent to Houston Jewelry, including two letters hazmat crews inspected on Tuesday. The dozen or so pieces of mail, some containing substances, have been sent to the Houston store over the last week-and-a-half from a man named Arthur in Redding, California. "When I opened it, there were white crystals in the package," said Jean Robingston, the Houston Jewelry secretary who opened the first letter.



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A ruse to smuggle drugs into Arlington jail caught an employee of the Public Defender’s Office in its crosshairs

April 20, 2023 – Arlington County, AR

An employee of the Arlington County Public Defender’s Office appears to have been duped into smuggling drugs into the local jail. An apparent misunderstanding over recent changes to the delivery of personal mail could have contributed to the advocate’s arrest, according to her boss, Chief Public Defender Brad Haywood. Last month, a 32-year-old woman was arrested and charged with unauthorized delivery in jail in connection with an offense that allegedly occurred in mid-February, per court records. The employee reportedly delivered papers to the jail in her capacity as an investigator for the Public Defender’s Office, but the papers — unbeknownst to her — had been soaked in drugs. The delivery also circumvented a new jail policy.



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Gulf Shores attorney admits to feds he smuggled synthetic marijuana into jail

April 27, 2023 – Monroe County, AL

A Gulf Shores attorney has entered into a plea agreement with federal prosecutors through which he will plead guilty to charges he smuggled synthetic marijuana into the Monroe County Detention Center. Michael Santos, a criminal defense attorney, signed a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorneys Office under which he will plead guilty to one count of providing prison contraband. According to federal court documents, beginning in November 2021 Santos worked with an inmate, who he had represented, at the Monroe County jail to smuggle pieces of paper soaked in “spice,” a synthetic marijuana, into the prison, which the inmate would then sell for profit.



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International Hazardous and Threat Mail

Moscow French embassy receives bone-filled package from Crimea, deceased Italian film producer Pietro Notarianni listed as sender

April 13, 2023 - Moscow, RUS

The French embassy in Moscow has received a package sent from Crimea and containing some bones and a syringe, as reported by RIA Novosti and Baza. The sender's name on the package is Pietro Notarianni, a reference to the celebrated Italian film producer who died in 2006. This is already the third time the embassy receives a parcel of this kind.

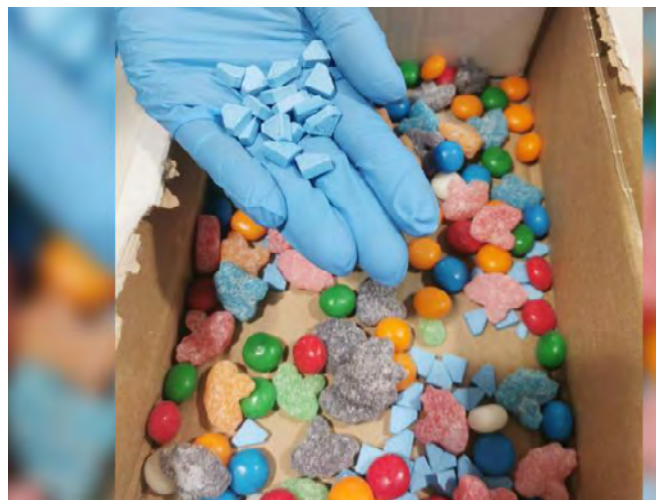


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Ecstasy pills found mixed in with candy sent to Tilburg address

April 22, 2023 – Tilburg, NZ

An unsolicited package filled with candy that was sent to an address in Tilburg was also found to have at least two dozen ecstasy pills. Police issued a warning about the incident this week, saying that such situations are on the rise. The person who received the package brought it to a police station “because there was strange ‘candy’ among the items,” police said. “The ‘candy’ turned out to be MDMA pills.” The recipient said that they did not make any purchases, legitimate or otherwise, that should have included either candy or drugs. “Drugs, bundled within a package, being sent to a false address more often,” police said on Thursday.



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Will Plummer is the Chief Security Officer of RaySecur.

Will's 25-year career with the US Army and Department of Defense spans service as a Master Explosives Ordnance Disposal Technician, to managing EOD operations as a commanding officer for all of Southeast Asia. He holds a Masters Degree in National Security and Irregular Warfare from the Naval War College.

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