



**CITY OF IRWINDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Ty Henshaw, Chief of Police

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 29, 2020

SUSPICIOUS ENVELOPE PROMPTS EVACUATION AT SCE FACILITY IN IRWINDALE

Irwindale, California: On Thursday, October 29, 2020 at approximately 8:14 A.M., Irwindale police officers and the Los Angeles County Fire Department responded to the Southern California Edison (SCE) Gateway Center located at 6010 N. Irwindale Avenue regarding the report of a suspicious envelope found by employees in a mail processing room.

On arrival, officers determined that two (2) employees working in the mail processing room discovered a suspicious envelope while processing mail as part of their regular job duties. As a precaution, the staff immediately initiated SCE's emergency protocol by isolating the envelope and self-evacuating from the building. A total of nine (9) SCE employees self-evacuated prior to the arrival of emergency personnel. They were medically evaluated at the scene, however none of the employees reported any symptoms and none required medical care.

Irwindale police officers investigated the incident along with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department CBRN Hazmat Detail and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Unit.

It was ultimately determined the suspicious envelope contained a granular substance which was found to be nothing more than dirt. The substance was not hazardous and there was no public health threat. At approximately 12:30 P.M., emergency personnel cleared from the scene and the impacted SCE employees were allowed to return to work.

The investigation into the source of the envelope and its contents, as well as why the material was sent to the location, remains on-going.

Thankfully, SCE staff trains for incidents such as this. Even though this incident did not result in a threat to the community; it does illustrate the importance of screening and responding to suspicious mail and packages.

Additional information on safely handling and processing mail can be found attached to this release or by visiting:

<https://www.uspis.gov/tips-prevention/suspicious-mail/>

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Twitter: @IrwindalePolice
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SUSPICIOUS MAIL OR PACKAGES

Protect yourself, your business, and your mailroom.

If you receive a suspicious letter or package:

• Stop. Don't handle.

• Isolate it immediately.

• Don't open, smell, or taste.

• Activate your emergency plan. Notify a supervisor.



If you suspect the mail or package contains a bomb (explosive), or radiological, biological, or chemical threat:

• Isolate area immediately • Call 911 • Wash your hands with soap and water



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