



# Crime Watch

## Postal Inspectors Fight Fraud On The Internet

(NAPSA)—To catch a thief, follow the money. That basic idea has served as a guide for crime fighters over the years. Today, the place to find many criminal operations is on the Internet.



**Fraud on the Internet becomes mail fraud when the U.S. mail is used in any phase of the illegal scheme.**

As the amount of business transacted over the Internet has grown, so have the number of scams and schemes.

For over 200 years Postal Inspectors have safeguarded the customers of the U.S. Postal Service. That familiar group of crime fighters also joins the effort to stamp out Internet fraud. Fraud on the Internet becomes mail fraud when the U.S. mail is used in any phase of the illegal scheme.

According to the National Fraud Information Center, a few of the top Internet scams involving mail fraud are online auctions, bogus services, fraudulent merchandise offers, misrepresented computer sales, business opportunities, work-at-home schemes, advance fee loan scams and illegal sweepstakes or prizes.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service maintains a home page containing information on the mission of the Service and tips on how to avoid getting taken by various schemes. To learn more, or to report fraud online, visit the website at [www.usps.com/postalinspectors](http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors).