

Delivery After Dark

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th, and with that comes a decrease of daylight hours available. Carriers will once again be exposed to the possibility of delivering mail after dark.

What should you do? Is it safe to be delivering mail after dark? That depends. There is no uniform policy regarding delivery after dark. That's because we are not dealing with a consistent situation for everyone.

There are some delivery areas that may not be safe and should not be delivered to after dark. That depends on whether or not a carrier can safely make that delivery based on individual circumstances such as is it unfamiliar territory, a high crime area, is there poor visibility or other hazards (i.e. animals, uneven surfaces or other impediments such as fences, toys, etc).

The time to plan for delivering after dark is now before you find yourself literally in the dark. Are there parts of your route that are less hazardous than other to being delivered after dark (apartments with lighted entryways or well lit neighborhoods). Discuss these issues with your supervisor, steward and safety liaison then make a plan and write it down for the CCA's who may be delivering your route for the first time.

If you find yourself in a situation where you believe you'll be out delivering mail after dark, REMEMBER THAT YOU DO HAVE RIGHTS, and follow these instructions:

1. Inform your supervisor in the morning of your need of auxiliary assistance in order to complete your street duties before dark. **THIS MEANS FILL OUT FORM 3996 - HELP SLIP.**
2. Notify your supervisor prior to heading out to the street that you may not be able to complete your duties on the street by dark.
3. When on the street if you realize that you definitely will be out after dark, call your supervisor and make them aware of that reality. Stress your concern for your safety and again request auxiliary assistance.
4. Assuming no help arrives and you are faced with darkening conditions, attempt to continue.
5. **IF** while attempting delivery, you literally experience a safety hazard (i.e. stumbling, tripping, hear dogs barking, but unable to see that threat, not able to see potential dangers using your LLV/van's outside mirrors ...) call your supervisor. Explain your situation and notify them that you cannot safely continue delivery then return to your station.
6. **COMPLETE FORM 1571 - Curtailment form for the undelivered mail.**

Be sure to hand the curtailment slip to the supervisor, and ASK FOR A COPY. The copy is for your protection. You can also request a Form 1767 - Notice of Hazardous Working Condition. This will help you document the safety hazards you encountered while attempting to deliver after dark.

It is important to note that these instructions are not intended to endorse or encourage the unnecessary curtailment of any mail. It is about your safety and the protection of the mail in our charge.

There is not a single answer for every possible situation. It simply is the responsibility of each carrier to measure their safety and ensure that they are working safely. PERIOD.