

# *Stand-Up Talk*

October 22, 2003

All Employees

Last week, an employee at the Greenville, SC, Airport Mail Facility discovered a suspicious envelope. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tested its contents and found that it contained a poison called ricin (RICE-in). Additional tests will be conducted so we can be absolutely sure about the envelope's contents. The ricin was contained in a sealed, watertight metal container inside the envelope.

While CDC said there are no indications of employee exposure or adverse health effects as a result of the incident, we have closed the facility until it can be tested for the presence of ricin. CDC and South Carolina Public Health are available to answer employee questions in Greenville.

The Department of Homeland Security does not believe the incident is an act of terrorism. The FBI and the Postal Inspection Service are aggressively investigating.

The safety of our employees is our number one concern. This incident is another example of why it's so important for each of us to be alert to what's happening where we work. We have to follow the right procedures when we come across suspicious mail.

Here's what you should do if you see a suspicious letter or package:

- Don't touch it!
- Isolate the area, keep others away
- Tell your supervisor, postmaster or manager
- Notify the Postal Inspection Service, local law enforcement officials, or community first responders immediately

And if you have any questions, please ask your supervisor.