

“Unable to Work . . .”



I can't work . . .
at the Post Office because
I got “hurt” on the job.
Now I'm on workers' comp.
It's a sweet deal.
For three years, I've
been getting 75% of my
pay — tax-free!
And now I'm picking
up some extra money
working this job.
Sweet.

What could go wrong?

Plenty.

It's a felony to defraud the Workers' Comp. program.
You could go to jail. You could lose your job.
And you'll end up paying all that money back.

Are you picking up the slack for someone who is faking
an on-the-job injury? Call the Office of Inspector General.



Why should you suffer?

1-888-USPS-OIG HOTLINE@uspsoig.gov www.uspsoig.gov

PHOTO: TERRY FAY/USPS/POSTAL; ONCE UPON A TIME; WORKERS' COMPENSATION/FRAUD

Month after month an El Paso postal employee submitted workers' comp claim forms that said just that: Unable to work due to an on-the-job injury. The employee claimed he was completely disabled and in need of surgery for his injured arm. However, Office of Inspector General (OIG) Special Agents were alerted that these claims might not be true. They videotaped him at a college football game, painting his house, and throwing tires and other debris into a dumpster, all with full use of his arm. While he was “unable to work,” his fraudulent claims cost the Postal Service almost \$55,000 in compensation and medical costs. But they cost the former postal employee even more. He was convicted of workers' compensation fraud; lost his benefits; and will spend ten months in federal prison, serve three years of probation and has to pay back all that money.

Last year, OIG investigations of workers' comp scammers saved the Postal Service about \$200 million in long-term workers' comp costs.

To help bring attention to these types of scams, the OIG has kicked off a crime prevention and awareness campaign, targeting a crime that costs the Postal Service millions of dollars each year.

The message of this campaign is clear — it's illegal to fake an injury and collect benefits, or work while on workers' comp without reporting the income. Violators can end up in jail, lose their benefits and may be required to pay back the money they received.

The campaign features a worker bragging about how he makes a “couple of extra bucks” while on workers' comp, but is “too hurt” to work his postal job. To combat such abuse, the OIG campaign will include a paycheck stuffer with employees' pay stubs. A companion poster for workroom floor bulletin boards will follow. The campaign also includes a screensaver that will be available for postal computers.




**So I make a couple of
extra bucks while I'm
on workers' comp.
What's the big deal?**

It is a big deal.
Workers' comp. benefits help many employees who suffer on-the-job injuries. But some scam the system, faking injuries or working second jobs, and this costs the Postal Service millions of dollars.

And it's a crime.
If you know someone who is defrauding the Postal Service, contact the Office of Inspector General.

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Fax 1-866-756-6741



Promoting Integrity
and Accountability
www.uspsoig.gov

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