**Delivering Blocked Boxes on Mounted Routes**

What I found was that the belief by many letter carriers that they can

arbitrarily just drive on by a temporarily blocked mailbox without attempting

delivery is a very mistaken belief - a belief that I also held throughout

the earlier portion of my letter carrier career. The determining factor is

safety, and if the box can safely be delivered by dismounting, it should be

done. Of course, the sole determinant of what is or is not safe in this

situation is the letter carrier.

The Postal Operations Manual section 632.14 states that "where the

approach to the mail receptacle located at the curb is temporarily blocked by a parked vehicle during normal delivery hours for the area, or snow or ice

hampers the approach to the mailbox, the carrier normally dismounts to make

delivery. If the carrier continually experiences a problem is serving

curbline boxes and where the customer is able to control on-street parking in

front of his or her mailbox but does not take prompt corrective action after

being properly notified, the postmaster may, with the approval of the

district manager, withdraw delivery service."

From the M-39 handbook, section 125.81: "On a curbline delivery route,

the carrier must serve the mailbox without leaving the vehicle, except to

collect postage dues, obtain payment or signature for special services mail, to

 deliver parcel post too large for the box, OR to serve a box temporarily

blocked."

Thus, to avoid possibly being charged with delay of mail, it is best to

dismount and deliver mail to temporarily blocked boxes if this can be safely

accomplished. If it can't be safely accomplished, the completion of forms

1571 and 1767 upon return from the street is essential. The above POM and

M-39 citations and other relevant information is quickly available from the

"steward resources" section of Glo's "Letter Carrier Network" site.

Quoted from M-39:

125.81 Serve Boxes from Vehicle

On a curbline delivery route, the carrier must serve the mailbox without

leaving the vehicle, except to collect postage dues, obtain payment or

signature for special services mail, to deliver parcel post too large for

the box,

or to serve a box temporarily blocked

Quoted from POM:

623.21 General

The customer is responsible for keeping the approach to the mailbox clear to

facilitate delivery (see 632.14). If the carrier continually experiences a

problem in serving curbline boxes and where the customer is able to control

access or on-street parking in front of his or her mailbox but does not take

prompt corrective action after being properly notified, the postmaster may,

with the approval of the district manager, withdraw delivery service.

&

632.14 Approach to Mailbox

The customer is responsible for keeping the approach to his or her mailbox

clear to facilitate delivery. Where the approach to the mail receptacle

located

at the curb is temporarily blocked by a parked vehicle during normal

delivery

hours for the area, or snow or ice hampers the approach to the mailbox, the

carrier normally dismounts to make delivery. If the carrier continually

experiences a problem in serving curbline boxes and where the customer is

able to control on-street parking in front of his or her mailbox but does

not

take prompt corrective action after being properly notified, the postmaster

may, with the approval of the district manager, withdraw delivery service.