

USPS ANNOUNCES ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE CLOSINGS, EARLY RETIREMENT OFFER AND STAFFING REDUCTIONS

Today the Postal Service has announced it will close six of its 80 district offices. USPS is also eliminating positions across the country and offering another round of voluntary early retirements. These actions are expected to save the Postal Service more than \$100 million annually.

The six offices closing — located in Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Washington State — house administrative functions and will not adversely affect customer service, mail delivery, Post Office operations or ZIP Codes. The functions of these offices will be assumed by 10 surrounding districts.

The Postal Service's districts are being re-aligned as follows:

- The Boston and Connecticut districts will assume the operations of the Massachusetts District.
- The Northern New England (formerly Maine) District will assume the operations of the New Hampshire/Vermont District.
- The Western Pennsylvania (formerly Pittsburgh) District will assume the operations of the Erie District.
- The South Florida and Suncoast districts will assume the operations of the Central Florida District.
- The Seattle and Salt Lake City districts will assume the operations of the Spokane District.
- The Northern New Jersey and Southern New Jersey districts will assume the operations of the Central Jersey District.

USPS will reduce administrative staff positions at the district level nationwide by 15 percent. In addition, more than 1,400 mail processing supervisor and management positions at nearly 400 facilities around the country will be eliminated, and nearly 150,000 employees nationwide are being given the opportunity to take an early retirement as part of a voluntary early retirement (VER) program. Managers are notifying employees who are impacted by these decisions. The Postal Service will send letters notifying VER-eligible employees starting April 6, 2009.

In the past year, the Postal Service has taken very aggressive cost-cutting actions, including:

- Cutting 50 million workhours;
- Halting construction of new postal facilities;
- Negotiating an agreement with the National Association of Letter Carriers that adjusts letter carrier routes to reflect diminished volume;
- Freezing salaries of all Postal Service officers and executives;
- Instituting a nationwide hiring freeze;
- Reducing authorized staffing levels at postal headquarters and area offices by at least 15 percent;
- Selling unused and under-utilized postal facilities;
- Adjusting Post Office hours to better reflect customer use; and,
- Consolidating mail processing operations.

Additional information — and questions and answers — about all of these new changes can be found under the *Hot Topics* section on *Blue*. VER information can be found under the *Hot Topics* section on *LiteBlue*.

Note: Postmasters and managers, click this [link](#) to print a stand-up talk that should be read to all employees.

Source: https://liteblue.usps.gov/news/link/2009/nl_0320extra.htm 3-20-2009