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FedEx W-2s deliver surprise

Forms include tax information from other employees

By **MARY ANN MILBOURN**
Knight Ridder News Service

SANTA ANA, Calif. — FedEx Freight West officials were scrambling yesterday to recall W-2s sent to as many as 8,500 employees after learning that some of the forms also included other workers' tax information.

Up to 1,100 workers in the Los Angeles-Orange County area could be affected.

Sally Davenport, a spokeswoman at the company's Memphis headquarters, said the company learned about the problem on Tuesday when employees started reporting that one segment of their W-2s included another worker's W-2, including Social Security number, pay and tax information.

Company officials aren't sure how it happened, although they think their internal processing center,



AP / FILE

A customer fills out a label to ship a package via FedEx on Dec. 21 in Peabody, Mass. The company was trying to recall as many as 8,500 W-2s from some employees.

which was responsible for printing and mailing the W-2s, may have misaligned the forms so that they weren't cutting off at the proper place.

FedEx workers received an e-mail Tuesday from Rick Medefesser, senior manager of human resources, advising them of the error. He asked them not to open their W-2s and to promptly return the envelope to their manager.

Beth Givens, director of

the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse in San Diego, said she hears about the erroneous release of private information because of a processing problem two or three times a year.

In most cases, fellow workers won't share someone else's confidential information, Givens said. In FedEx's case, however, as many as 2,500 of the W-2s went to people who are no longer employed with the company. ■