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ESSEX POLICE DEPARTMENT

145 Maple Street
Essex Junction, Vermont
05452-3792
www.epdvt.org

Media Release

April 12, 2017 / Essex Junction VT – At 9:58 am, the Essex Police Department received a phone call from an individual threatening violence directly against the Essex High School. A male caller indicated to police that unless certain demands were met he would cause damage and harm individuals at the high school.

The police department immediately notified school officials to inform them of the call. Essex Fire and Rescue were notified, as well as other area law enforcement to assist in the response. Within minutes of being notified, officials at the high school activated an emergency response plan. This encompassed a school-wide lockdown with all students being required to remain in classrooms until further notice.

Essex Police arrived at the school minutes after the initial call. The perimeter of the school property was secured and all incoming and exiting traffic was stopped. A search of the school grounds was immediately undertaken, with no threats identified. Immediately following this determination, a search of the school facility interior was commenced by law enforcement during the lockdown.

During this time investigators continued to have discussions with the male caller. After some discussion, the caller terminated the call, hanging up on police. Despite efforts to re-engage, contact was lost with the caller.

A student was interviewed as part of the investigation, and was determined not to be a suspect or involved in any way.

At approximately 1pm, police searching the interior of Essex High School campus buildings determined the property to be secure from any known threats. Upon that notification, school officials switched their status from a lockdown to a lockout, effectively allowing students to access rest rooms and food services inside the school, while officials began to plan for dismissal. Police maintained a secure perimeter during this process.

At approximately 2pm students were dismissed from school and allowed to leave school property. Police on scene remained vigilant during this time to ensure the safety of the students as they left.

This afternoon and evening, school buildings and grounds were subject to a more extensive search for any potential threats with none found. Investigation is ongoing to determine the identity of the caller in this incident. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Essex Police Department.

Agencies assisting in this response were the Vermont State Police, Colchester PD, Williston PD, Burlington PD, South Burlington PD, CCSD, FBI, US Marshall, ATF, Milton PD, Essex Jct Fire, Essex Fire, Essex Rescue, UVM Rescue, Fairfax Rescue, and Richmond Rescue.

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Questions pertaining to school impacts should be directed to Chittenden Central Supervisory Union District office at 857-7000 ext. 4018.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact The Essex Police Department at 878-8331.

Bradley J. LaRose

Essex Police Chief