

Long Branch Public Schools "Where Children Matter Most"



May 26-29, 2015

Wave Safety & Security News

Volume 1, Issue 31



WARNING: some material contained within this newsletter might be disturbing

NEW SECURITY PROCEDURES INSIDE



**JUNE 2015
BOMB THREAT
EMERGENCY DRILL**

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Quick Response Emergency/Crisis Procedures



INVENTORY of FLIP BOOKS

Principals: It is that time of year! As school winds down and your staff prepare to be dismissed for the summer break, please consider some type of inventory control over the Quick Response Emergency Crisis Procedure flip book.

The state requires that each classroom have a flip book. This school year we discovered a tremendous amount of these "information sensitive" books misplaced or lost.

It is important that you control the books in your buildings. These books should be assigned to rooms not individuals. If a teacher transfers, the book should remain in the room.

Please conduct an inventory, check to see how many books you will need for 2015-2016, we should not need many! Updates to the procedures will be made during the summer and new inserts for the book will be distributed in the fall.

NEW PROCEDURE

The last two weeks of May the Long Branch Police Department conducted intense "Active Shooter" training in the West End School. Every officer working for the city had to take this course, which they fired specialized ammunition at each other getting as close to a real life shootout.

Part of this training included cooperation and planning with the school district on procedures and methods that we incorporate during our drilling. Each year techniques and response from law enforcement change according to recent trends.



The Long Branch Police have asked use to modify our Red (Help) and Green

(Ok) cards used during an active shooter, lockdown procedure. Each classroom is provided with two cards, one to be placed in the window and the other placed under the classroom door.

Starting July 2015, the procedure will be once an active shooter or lockdown is initiated the car will be placed in the window as soon as possible. However, don't place the sign under the classroom door. Long Branch Police will now instruct us when to place the sign under the door via PA address, text messages, giving signals outside classroom windows etc.

The reason, the first responding law enforcement team into a school will not be concerned with wounded people in the hallways or classrooms. They are focused on the active shooter and will search for him/her only.

Subsequent responding police units will be for recovery and assistance. That is when direction will be given on putting the second sign under the classroom door.

New Procedure

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WAVE Safety & Security News

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Teacher files suit over surprise safety drill

May 22, 2015

Do you let your staffers know when a safety drill is coming?

In Oregon, a former elementary school teacher has filed suit, claiming an active shooter safety drill caused her to develop an anxiety disorder.

Linda McLean was a teacher at Pine Eagle charter school.

During an in-service day in April of 2013, the school held an active shooter drill.

The SRO, disguised in a black hoodie and goggles, burst into her classroom, pointed a gun at her head, pulled the trigger and said, "You're dead," according to McLean.



Now she's filed suit, claiming the "hare-brained drill" caused her to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, as staffers had no idea what was happening and had not been warned about the drill.

McLean claims she was unable to return to her job due to anxiety. The suit seeks damages for:

1. involuntary separation of employment
2. medical and psychological treatment
3. loss of retirement benefits and fringe

benefits, as well as
4. punitive damages and attorneys' fees.

Here in New Jersey, the Department of Education suggests that we don't inform staff in advance that a drill will occur or announce that it is a drill.

Teacher 'should be shot' — is it protected speech?

May 20, 2015

Picture this: A student's Facebook post includes a thread that names a specific teacher, calls her the B-word and says she "should be shot."

Can the school legally discipline the student?

On the surface, it would seem so, right? The post has a specific target, contains an inappropriate slur and includes violent language.

But an Oregon federal court recently held the discipline for the post violated the student's rights.



This case provides a good example of how knee-jerk reactions can lead to errors during the decision-making process.

Let's look at where the school veered

off course, so you can avoid a similar mistake.

'Grounded' for C in health class

Braeden Burge got a "C" in his health class at Colton Middle School. His mother took away privileges.



Braeden wasn't happy. So he got on his home computer and took to Facebook to vent, blaming his health teacher.

In one thread, Braeden and his friends made several derogatory comments. The chat ended with Braeden posting, "Ya haha she needs to be shot."

Braeden's mom monitored his Facebook page – and made him delete the thread that same day.

Six weeks later, someone anonymously put a printed copy of the thread in the principal's mailbox.

The principal called Braeden to the office and sent him to ISS.

Braeden's mom complained, saying she'd taken care of the issue at home. She sued, claiming the discipline violated Braeden's speech rights.

A magistrate judge tossed the claim, and Braeden's mom filed an appeal in district court.

Court weighs in

In Tinker, the U.S. Supreme Court held schools have the authority to restrict speech that substantially interferes – or is likely to interfere – with school operations.

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1. In *Wynar v. Douglas Co. School Dist.*, the Ninth Circuit held "when faced with an identifiable threat of school violence, schools may take disciplinary action in response to off-campus speech that meets the requirement of *Tinker*."

2. In *J.S. v. Blue Mountain School Dist.*, the Third Circuit noted the SCOTUS "has held ... both within and outside the school context, that the mere fact that someone might take offense to the content of speech is not sufficient justification for prohibiting it."

In this case, the court noted the principal didn't discuss the Facebook posts with any other teachers and didn't determine Braeden had a history of posting threats online.

It also noted the "targeted" teacher didn't take any time off of work due to fear based on the threat. Simply put, there was no "identifiable threat" here like there was in *Wynar*.

Rather, the teacher testified she merely felt "uncomfortable," which wasn't enough to amount to a "substantial disruption," which is required by *Tinker*.

Here, the situation was more similar to the facts in *J.S.*, where the speech caused discomfort, the court explained. That's not enough to authorize the school to step in and administer school discipline.

So the court ordered the district to remove the suspension from Braeden's education records and pay his attorneys' fees.

Slip-and-fall in locker room: Was school liable?

May 25, 2015

Wyoming's supreme court rejected the negligence claim of a student who slipped and fell in a school locker room.

Nicole Halvorson took a swimming class for PE at East Junior High School.

In 2009, she fell in the locker room. She injured her back and needed three surgeries.

She sued the school for negligence, claiming it failed to maintain the shower facilities in a reasonably safe condition.

Her suit alleged the shower drains were backed up and flooded into the dressing area.

After a trial, the court granted judgment for the school. Nicole appealed to the state supreme court, which upheld the ruling.

The plumber – a 16-year veteran of the district – testified that he'd only needed to "snake" the drain on one occasion, and the head custodian testified about the daily, monthly and yearly cleaning routines.

The evidence didn't support Nicole's claim that the area was not properly maintained.

So her claim failed.

Halvorson v. Sweetwater County School Dist. No. 1, Nos. S-14-0083, S-14-0084, 2015 WL 457402 (Wyo. 2/4/15).



Bomb Threat in Bergen

May 26, 2015

NJ Homeland Security Intell Document

Bomb Threat at Pizza Hut Latest in Series of 'SWATting' Incidents Homicidal threats from a man who said he was armed with an automatic rifle and had a bomb strapped to his body caused panic at a Fort Lee Pizza Hut on Sunday night and led authorities to a fruitless four-hour search. Police didn't find the man or any explosives after scouring the Bergen Boulevard restaurant for four and a half hours, Chief Keith Bendul said in a release.

The threat caused some patrons or unknown persons to flee "frantically in different directions" and run to different rooms in the restaurant, he said. Authorities evacuated the Pizza Hut and treated it as if it were a credible bomb threat, with a possible barricaded subject, he said. The call joins a series of recent "SWATting" incidents in the area, where anonymous callers reported bogus emergencies to elicit massive police response. A SWAT team in Passaic County descended on a Clifton video game store in March after receiving a fake report of a hostage situation. In April, police swarmed Hollywood Cleaners in Bergenfield after receiving a prank call from a man who said he had strapped bombs to two hostages inside. Other areas of the state have also recently fallen prey to swatting.



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Princeton and Mommouth County have seen a slew of such incidents. Last month, police shut down much of southern Hoboken after receiving what is now believed to have been a fake bomb threat. Bendul said the borough's detective bureau is looking at Sunday's call alongside the "SWATting" events in Bergen and Passaic counties in a joint investigation. In Sunday's incident both police and restaurant management received reports of a bomb threat, Bendul said. The borough communications center received a call at 6:53 p.m. reporting that a suicidal man was inside the Pizza Hut. The man purportedly had an automatic rifle and a bomb strapped to his body and threatened to kill all of the restaurant's patrons, Bendul said.

Soon after the initial call, dispatchers received a second from a different individual, who urged police to respond to the Pizza Hut because he'd seen several suspicious individuals in the restaurant. Several agencies responded, including Fort Lee police, State Police, the Bergen County Sheriff's Office, Port Authority Police of New York and New Jersey and police from Palisades Park, Edgewater and Leonia.

Comment: In some "SWATting" cases, the caller utilizes technology to make it appear the emergency call is coming from the target location. Swatting is perpetrated to observe emergency response, or inconvenience and endanger the unsuspecting residents of the target. The OHSP liaison to law enforcement is Jeffrey Elgrim: JElgrim@njohsp.gov.

Teen Pleads Guilty to Terror Charges

May 26, 2015
NJ Homeland Intell Document

A 14-year-old boy from Austria who downloaded bomb-making plans onto his PlayStation games console was sentenced to a two-year jail term on Tuesday after pleading guilty to terrorism charges. As well as researching how to build a bomb, the boy made contact with militants supporting the Islamic State jihadist group in Syria, prosecutors said ahead of the trial. Sixteen months of the sentence were suspended. The boy, a Turkish national, will serve what remains of the eight-month custodial term in a juvenile detention center, a spokeswoman for the regional court in Sankt Poelten said.

He had been briefly placed in investigative custody in October on suspicion of terrorism-related activity, before being conditionally released. He was detained for a second time in January. He had faced up to five years in jail for supporting a terrorist organization and planning an attack. Those charges were based on data found on the boy's PlayStation, including bomb-building plans downloaded from the internet, prosecutors said. More than 200 people have left Austria to fight in the Middle East, some 30 of whom have been killed while around 70 have returned, according to the interior ministry. A court in Vienna is currently hearing the case of a 16-year-old girl accused of preparing to join a terrorist organization.

Unconfirmed press reports said that the IS had offered to pay him 25,000 euros if he managed to carry out the attack. In common with other European countries, Austria has seen a steady flow of people leaving or attempting to leave the country in order to join IS militants in Syria and Iraq.

According to the Austrian interior ministry, more than 200 have done so, in-

cluding some women and minors. Around 70 have since returned, several of whom are in custody awaiting trial. Two California men were in federal custody Friday on suspicion of supporting the terrorist group ISIS. Federal prose-



cutors said Nader Salem Elhuzayel and Muhanad Badawi, both 24 and from Anaheim, discussed terrorist ideas over Twitter and Facebook and planned to join Islamic State forces overseas. They could face charges that would keep them in prison for up to 15 years if convicted. Terror experts who track militant groups recruiting in the United States said Friday that there has been a dramatic increase this year in the number of Americans arrested trying to join the Islamic State. In all, four people from Orange County -- all men in their early 20s -- have been arrested in the past two years on suspicion of trying to support terrorist activities. Elhuzayel and Badawi were arrested Thursday evening by the Orange County Joint Terrorism Task Force, which includes officials from the FBI, Anaheim Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Elhuzayel said goodbye to his parents Thursday night at Los Angeles International Airport, picked up a one-way ticket and was about to board a plane heading to Turkey when FBI agents took him into custody, according to a criminal complaint filed in US District Court in Santa Ana.

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The FBI said Elhuzayel admitted after his arrest that he was headed overseas to join ISIS terrorists, according to the complaint. Meanwhile, FBI agents in Anaheim arrested his friend and alleged fellow terrorist supporter Badawi. Details of Badawi's arrest were not released. Elhuzayel's parents, Palestinian immigrants Salem and Falak Elhuzayel, said their son is not a terrorist or sympathetic to terrorist ideals. They said he was flying to Israel on Thursday, on a flight with a layover in Istanbul, to visit his aunts and cousins. Federal authorities describe Nader Elhuzayel and Badawi as eager, would-be terrorists. The two men "used social media to discuss (ISIS) and terrorist attacks, expressed a desire to die as martyrs and made arrangements for Nader Elhuzayel to leave the United States to join (ISIS)," according to the complaint. An Orange County defense attorney appointed by the federal court to represent Badawi at Friday's proceeding said Badawi immigrated to the United States from Sudan when he was about 16 and has no previous criminal record.



Comment: The conflict in Syria will continue to attract foreign fighters from Western countries, including the United States. The risk is that trained fighters may return to their home countries with enhanced capabilities to conduct attacks. Information on ISIS is available from Angie Gad: AGad@njohsp.gov.rim@njohsp.gov.

State police investigating bomb, school shooting threats against students in Potsdam

May 22, 2015

North County News; Matt Lindsey

POTSDAM -- Threats made on Facebook earlier today, May 22, claiming intention of harming students at Potsdam schools have been deemed "not credible," according to Potsdam Police Lt. Mark Murray.

At least one person reported the threats to police around 8 a.m. this morning.

The posts on Facebook were made under the name Jeana Bristow.

The threats were "Going to be a blood bath Monday at some preschools and high school I can't wait to see people die," "Feel like blowing up schools in Potsdam, NY," "Might shoot them up also who knows."

State police are investigating and are expected to release more details soon.

Milford student who threatened to kill classmates to remain in custody

May 22, 2015

Oakland Press News: Carol Hopkins

A Milford High School student who threatened to kill everyone at his school earlier this year will remain in Children's Village in Pontiac.

Probate Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti conducted the teen's disposition hearing Thursday, May 21. Court officials said the boy, now 15, is to remain in deten-

tion at Children's Village until placed in another program there.

The Highland Township teen's next review hearing is at 1:30 p.m. on June 30.

He pleaded no contest to the false report of an act of terrorism in April.

The Oakland Press generally does not disclose the names of those charged as juveniles in criminal proceedings.

The boy made the threat on the Kik messenger app in a small group chat in February involving very close friends, according to his attorney Deanna Kelley.

A friend of a friend saw that threat and reported it. He also wrote he would "Columbine this [expletive]," investigators said.

A search of the suspect's home revealed nine guns registered to the boy's father. Some were locked up while others were not.



The boy has never disputed the acts he's accused of, said Kelley.

A plea of no contest is not an admission of guilt but is treated as one by the courts.

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15-year-old boy critically injured during school fight

May 25, 2015

New York Post: Natasha Velez

A 15-year-old boy was critically injured after he was clocked in the face by a fellow student at a Chelsea high school, police sources said.

The two boys were squabbling on the eighth floor of the High School of Fashion Industries on West 24th Street and Seventh Avenue around 11:30 a.m. Friday when things took a violent turn, sources said.



The assailant, also 15, sucker-punched victim Isiah Branch-El in the face, which led him to fall to the ground and seriously hit his head, sources said. Branch-El was rushed to Bellevue Hospital, where he remains in critical condition, authorities said.

The suspect was taken into custody and charged with assault, but his name wasn't released because of his age, cops said.

In May 2014, first lady Michelle Obama addressed students enrolled at the school during an event at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, when a costume center named after Vogue editor Anna Wintour was unveiled.

Yonkers principal charged with threatening LI dad

May 23, 2015

The Journal News: Jane Lemer

A Yonkers principal who brought attention to school violence after he was attacked by students four times in a month has been charged with threatening to beat up the father of a 6-year-old on a Long Island soccer team he coaches.

Robert Riccuiti, 45, of Glen Head, is facing a misdemeanor charge of second-degree aggravated harassment, according to Nassau County police.

He was taken into custody Friday and was to be arraigned Saturday.

Police said Riccuiti received an email from the father of a child on a soccer team he coaches questioning his son's playing time and the "philosophy of the soccer program."

Riccuiti allegedly responded to the father with foul language and threatened to beat him with a baseball bat.

Riccuiti works at the VIVE School, a Yonkers public school that provides job training and support to older teens and adults who want a high school diploma.

He was previously principal of Emerson Middle School in Yonkers. In 2010 he brought attention to the issue of school violence when he said he was attacked by students four times in one month.

Riccuiti told The Journal News in 2010 that he was frustrated by a lack of help from superiors.

"I am responsible for the safety and security of everybody in that building," he told the newspaper.

Yonkers school officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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Assistant Superintendent

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