



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Response to Swatting Incident, Ensures Student Safety**

On October 1, 2024 Hopkinton Police were alerted to a false emergency at Hopkinton High School, prompting an immediate shelter-in-place at the school. "Swatting" is a criminal act where false reports of an emergency are made to provoke a large-scale law enforcement action. There were indicators that our Communications Department recognized, which led them to believe this was a swatting type incident.

The incident unfolded at approximately 11:13 AM, when dispatch received a report a male subject had killed 2 people at Hopkinton High School and was currently in a second-floor restroom. Police responded swiftly, notifying school administrators and ensuring all students were in secure rooms. Officers swept the entire building and deemed it safe within approximately 10 minutes. After a thorough investigation, it was confirmed that the call was, in fact, a hoax, and there was no real threat to students, staff, or faculty. Normal activities resumed once law enforcement confirmed the safety of the campus.

Swatting is a serious offense and the Hopkinton Police Department is actively investigating the source of the call. The perpetrator(s) could face significant legal consequences, including felony charges for making a false report. This was reported to the Massachusetts State Police Fusion Center, as swatting has been an ongoing problem since the start of school across Massachusetts and the country.

The Hopkinton School District is committed to ensuring the continued safety and well-being of all students and staff. The district plans to review its emergency response procedures in light of this event and urges the community to remain vigilant.

“I would like to commend our Communication Department, Officers, Fire Department, and School Administration for their swift response to this call,” says Lt. Scott van Raalten. “Despite the indicators this was likely a hoax, everyone responded quickly and efficiently to ensure student and staff safety.”

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