



Ozark Police Department

201 E. Brick Street
Ozark, Missouri 65721
Chief Justin Arnold
Office 417.581.6600 Fax 417.581.8804



Media Release

DATE OF RELEASE: March 27, 2023

REPORT NUMBER: 23-4599

SUBJECT: False Report of Active Shooter Call- Ozark High School

On March 27, 2023 Ozark Police Officers, Ozark School Resource Officers and Christian County Sheriff's Deputies investigated a false report of an active shooter at Ozark High School. The investigation confirmed the report to be false and no threats were identified. First responders from law enforcement, staff from the Ozark Fire Protection District and the Christian County Ambulance District spent nearly two hours on site until the threat was proven to be false.

At approximately 1:50pm, Ozark Police Officers and Ozark School Resource Officers were dispatched to the 1350 W. Bluff Drive, Ozark High School, to the report of an assault, involving "shots fired".

At the time of the original dispatch, Ozark School Resource Officers, who were on scene at Ozark High School, immediately began searching the building in accordance with their protocols and school administration instituted a "lock down", due to no active threats being heard, seen, or reported firsthand inside the building. Ozark Police Officers and Christian County Sheriff's Deputies arrived on scene within minutes and immediately instituted an active shooter response and a tactical search of the building. Simultaneously, an evacuation of students and staff from the building began. The evacuation of the building was controlled and under the direction of law enforcement. Once the building was completely evacuated, officers and deputies were able to methodically search the entire facility to ensure there was no active threat.



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At approximately 3:25 pm, the building was declared all clear by Ozark Police. Once no active threat was confirmed, students and staff returned to the building and a systematic dismissal was instituted to ensure safety of students and citizens leaving the high school and arriving to the location.

We appreciate everyone's patience, understanding and cooperation through this unfortunate false alarm. This is an active investigation and the Ozark Police Department will be working with the local, state and federal law enforcement partners to try and identify the person(s) responsible for the false report. We are aware of numerous other schools throughout Missouri which received similar false or fake active shooter calls, often referred to as "swatting".

"I know today's events were emotionally exhausting, whether you are a student, a parent, a staff member or a community member. First and foremost, we are thankful everyone is safe. We are grateful for the joint efforts between our school staff, administrators, School Resource Officers, Ozark Police Department, Christian County Sheriff's Office and local first responders," said Dr. Chris Bauman, Superintendent of Ozark Schools.

Media inquiries should be directed to Ozark Deputy City Administrator Samantha Payne at 417-581-7002 ext. 2001 or spayne@ozarkmissouri.org.