

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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UPDATE ON CRESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL INCIDENT

At approximately 9:30 am today Crestview High School administrators initiated the school's emergency crisis plan. Administrators and the school's resource officer received information from an emotionally disturbed student indicating possible threats to the safety of the school. The school was placed in lock down by deputies and students were moved to pre-determined safe locations and a search of the school was conducted. By 11:15 am the school was cleared and found to be safe.

Preliminary information is that the student had been having thoughts of suicide and that he may have been planning to bring some type of explosive device to the school. Initial investigation reveals that the student had not brought a device to the school today. The student has been taken into custody at this time for the purpose of receiving a mental health evaluation, also known as a Baker Act Evaluation. The school's crisis plan worked well and there is no indication that anyone at the school was in any danger today and the investigation is continuing.

"There were many erroneous reports given out as the incident transpired," said Sheriff Ashley. "Unfortunately this type of misinformation is typical in today's social media environment. In this case, and many like it, there are multitudes of avenues for information to flow. As a result of having different government agencies, different media outlets, various online commenters and even students putting out unverified and unconfirmed information, confusion will occur. For future reference, when dealing with incidents occurring at schools in Okaloosa County, the sheriff's office and the school district can be relied upon to provide the most accurate and timely information. Fortunately for us all, none of our children were harmed today and an emotionally disturbed young person will receive much needed help. Our kids are back in class and the investigation regarding today's incident is ongoing. We will continue to work with community partners in the future to limit and/or clarify external misinformation during these types of incidents."

For Further Information Contact:

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