

## **Statement and Q/A for bomb threat considered not credible**

**This will be adjusted and made available to secretaries and others who might receive calls...**

A message containing a bomb threat was received today (date) via (means: phone, email, written message) at (time)

Until the threat can be fully investigated, we will not be releasing the actual text of the threat.

The (Milwaukie Police department/Sheriff's Office) have been contacted and a general search of the building has been conducted.

The district has personnel trained to evaluate the validity of these threats. These personnel and the law enforcement officials have agreed that this threat is not credible.

This decision being made, we are continuing on a normal school schedule. Parents and students will be notified of any new developments via announcements or letters from the school. There will also be communications on our district web site.

Unfortunately, bomb threats are an occasional occurrence for our schools. History has demonstrated that they are attempts by a few students to disrupt the normal school day.

We do not view this as a prank. Any student(s) responsible will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. The administration is encouraging any person who has information concerning this threat to contact the school or the Superintendent's Office. Names will be kept confidential.

**Possible questions and answers are on the next page**

**Possible questions:**

**Q: Why didn't the district close schools immediately upon receiving the bomb threat? Why didn't the district notify all the parents?**

**A:** The district did not find the threat to be credible. The district did consult with the Sheriff's Office and other experts to help make the determination. The schools must weigh the validity of the threat, knowing that if schools were closed for every threat, it would encourage more threats to be made.

**Q: Are there a lot of bomb threats?**

**A:** For North Clackamas Schools, we receive 2-3 bomb threats each year. Other public locations, such as malls and courthouses, receive them on a very regular basis (as often as daily or weekly). In all cases those threats must be evaluated and a determination must be made about their credibility.

**Q: If there are so many bomb threats, why don't we hear about them?**

**A:** The media chooses not to report virtually all threats that it hears about. It wishes not to give too much credence to what is a common occurrence.

**Q. Why didn't the school district bring in bomb-sniffing dogs?**

**A.** The regional bomb squad decides whether the dogs will be dispatched. There are only four dogs in the Portland area and they are regularly assigned to the Port of Portland. They will typically not come to a location until suspicious devices are found.

**Q: Who searches buildings looking for bombs?**

**A:** Law enforcement officials require people who know the buildings to do any initial searches. These people, such as administrators, custodians and maintenance personnel, know the building better than anyone. They will have the best idea whether there is anything suspicious in a building. If something suspicious is found, then the bomb squad will respond. A threat alone is not enough to attract the bomb squad.

**Q: Can I keep my child at home out of a safety concern?**

**A.** That is a decision the schools must leave to every parent.

**Q: Whom should I contact if I have questions and/or concerns?**

**A:** You are welcome to write to Joe Krumm, director of community and government relations, at [krumm@nclack.k12.or.us](mailto:krumm@nclack.k12.or.us). Your comments will be passed on to the appropriate authorities. You can also call Joe at 503-653-3650.