



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **February 20, 2013**

Bomb Threat at Newport News Courthouse

At approximately 9:00 a.m., a bomb threat was called into 911 dispatchers saying there was a bomb at a downtown court building. The caller was not specific as to which courthouse. All three courthouses had to be evacuated.

The Newport News Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit was assisted by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the sweep of each building. The Sheriff's Office was assisted by Langley Security Police, Virginia State Police, the Newport News Police Department, Petersburg Sheriff's Office, and the Newport News Fire Marshal.

A perimeter was set up around the buildings closing streets to vehicles and pedestrians between Warwick Boulevard and West Avenue and 27th and 25th Streets. Deputies with the Newport News Sheriff's Office conducted traffic control to assist motorists around the secured area.

The main courthouse was cleared and open for court to resume at approximately 10:30 a.m. Juvenile, Domestic and Relations Courts reopened to the public at around 11:25 a.m.

No explosive device was found. The Newport News Sheriff's Office is conducting a criminal investigation.

In 2010, the NNSO was successful in the arrest and conviction of a man who called a bomb into the General District Court.

Today's incident was the first bomb threat of 2013. Making a bomb threat is a Class 5 Felony punishable up to 10-years in prison and a fine of up to \$2,500 (Virginia Code 18.2-83).

Photos will be sent in a subsequent e-mail.

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For more information, contact Lt. Kathleen Carey at 757-926-8747 or 757-813-6139.