

**Chief of Police**  
**Bradley J. LaRose**  
(802) 878-1335

**Detective Division**  
(802) 879-4923  
Fax (802) 878-8172



**Dispatch**  
(802) 878-8331

**Department Fax**  
(802) 878-1340

**Records Division**  
(802) 878-1337

## **ESSEX POLICE DEPARTMENT**

81 Main Street  
Essex Junction, Vermont  
05452-3211  
[www.epdvt.org](http://www.epdvt.org)

# **PRESS RELEASE**

January 27, 2014

On Saturday, January 25, 2014 the Williston Police Department assisted the Essex Police Department at the scene of a reckless endangerment incident in the vicinity of Pinecrest Drive, Essex. At the conclusion of the incident Williston Police Officer, Josh Hansell (29) was in the process of clearing a semi-automatic rifle when it accidentally discharged (7:58 pm).

At the time of the accidental discharge, Officer Hansell was pointing the muzzle of the weapon in a downward direction and into the passenger compartment of the cruiser he had been operating. The discharged round caused damage to the floorboard and may have damaged the transmission of the vehicle. The cruiser was unoccupied at the time of discharge. No one was injured.

The accidental discharge incident is under review by Williston Police Chief Todd Shepard. Officer Hansell remains on active duty status. Officer Hansell has 2 years of law enforcement experience.

Chief Brad LaRose – Essex Police Department  
Chief Todd Shepard – Williston Police Department