

Safety Committee Meeting January 20, 2015

Bomb Threats / Bomb Responses. Presented by Bill LaWare, Head of Safety and Security at EHS.

Bill reviewed protocol and procedures with Sgt. Paul Ravelin from the VT State Police. Bill provided examples and incidents that have taken place at the high school. The first recorded bomb incident at EJHS was recorded in 1927 on May 18th. LaWare pointed out that there are now 12 to 24 bombings in the US per day and Juveniles are responsible for 34% of those bombings. Bomb threats are a criminal offense and can result in jail time.

At EJHS, Search teams are made up of members from Maintenance, Faculty, the Superintendent and the EPD. All personnel are to follow protocol. The protocols are practiced. Search zones are assigned to specific members of the Search Team. EVERYTHING needs to be documented. Surveillance cameras are in place. Inside the buildings, locked offices, closets and maintenance areas are checked along with the staff lounges. Outside the buildings, maintenance sheds, stadiums athletic fields, parking lots and the roof are searched. If the building needs to be evacuated during a bomb threat, specific teams are set up to follow protocol.

Pipe bombs are the most common in Vermont. Most often, bomb threats have a specific time and/or target and reason behind each one.

Civilians and police must always remain "suspicious". Any suspicious items such as packages with irregularities like: (Non US, no return address, no specific attention to, misspelled words, badly written labels, restrictive mailings, visual distractions or drawings, strange odor, lumpy, oddly shaped, lopsided, rigid or bulky packages, oil stains or discoloration on the package, protruding wires or tinfoil, over wrapping, packages left by an unknown person must be brought to the authorities. The school administration should be notified, contact the police and the area should be secured in such an event.

Be aware of suspicious behavior also. Look for a series of unusual behavior. Pick up on the indicators and address them. Gather all the facts. Such as in cases where people ask about EJHS procedures. Watch for someone trying to get information. Always be aware. It's good practice to know the families and the students in the school. For example, who would be a risk? Always get with the Police Department or Community Justice Center if there is anything you may feel uncomfortable with the way a parent is acting towards school staff or faculty. Communication with the Safety Committee has been very beneficial.

Also mentioned at the meeting was an upcoming community event meeting on "Texting and Driving" to be held on February 17th, at the Black Box Theater at EHS, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.