

## News from the:

**Atascadero City Police Department  
5505 El Camino Real  
Atascadero, CA 93422  
(805) 461-5051**



### **Update:**

**Media Release: .....Sent September 14, 2015**

**Contact: Chief Jerel Haley, 805-461-5051**

The Atascadero Police Department has continued to work with local, state and federal officials in the investigation of this incident since it was first reported to our department on September 11, 2015. The focus of our efforts remains the safety of the students and staff at San Gabriel School and the other schools within the district.

During the initial investigation of the incident, an object was located on the campus of San Gabriel School in the area of the playground. The object contained a liquid of unknown origin. Based on the threats made in the letters left on the school campus, additional law enforcement and public safety officials responded to the school to assist. These resources included representatives from the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad and San Luis Obispo County Hazardous Materials Team.

The object was safely retrieved and the liquid material was presumptively tested. The liquid tested positive for a dangerous chemical substance. This heightened the safety concerns for public safety officials and the Atascadero Unified School District (AUSD) staff. The Atascadero Police Department is working with representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) to conduct additional testing on the chemical substance.

The Atascadero Unified School District has worked cooperatively with the Atascadero Police Department and the FBI in this investigation. At the recommendation and direction of law enforcement the AUSD has kept the school closed temporarily while further investigative work is completed. The AUSD and Atascadero Police Department have worked together to provide additional security and police presence at the other schools in the district. This was done to reassure parents and faculty on these campuses. At this time there is no known ongoing threat to the safety of our students or staff. A joint investigation to determine the person or group responsible for the threat is ongoing.

Also at the request and direction of law enforcement and the County Hazardous Materials Team, the AUSD has hired an industrial cleaning company to complete a thorough inspection of the school. While it does not appear that any child or staff member was exposed to the chemical substance, the school district and law enforcement have decided to act with an abundance of caution by completing this inspection.

At no time was any explosive device located on the campus.

A joint investigation to determine the person or group responsible for the threat is ongoing. The Atascadero Police Department will continue to work with the AUSD to reopen the San Gabriel Campus and resume normal school operations as appropriate.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Atascadero Police Department immediately at (805) 461-5051.

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On September 11, 2015 at 0745 AM the Atascadero Police Department received a report from school officials about a possible threat on the campus of San Gabriel Elementary School located at 8500 San Gabriel Road in the City of Atascadero. Atascadero Police personnel responded to the scene and confirmed that threatening letters had been delivered to the school by an unknown subject. In addition to the letters, a suspicious object was also located on the campus near the playground.

School officials quickly evacuated the school campus as additional Atascadero Police and Atascadero Fire Department officials responded to the scene. The area surrounding the school was cordoned off, and nearby residents were evacuated. The Atascadero Police and Fire Department requested the assistance of multiple outside agencies to assist our department in ensuring the safety of everyone involved. Personnel from the County of San Luis Obispo Hazardous Materials Team, San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, California State Parks Department, Atascadero State Hospital Police, San Luis Obispo Probation Department, San Luis Obispo District Attorney's Office and Federal Bureau of Investigations all responded to assist.

The scene was searched to ensure no other suspicious object was located on the campus. The San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department Bomb Task Force worked with the San Luis Obispo Hazardous Materials Team to recover the suspicious object and ensure it was safely removed.

Investigators from multiple responding agencies are currently working together to thoroughly investigate the matter. Due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, no further details specific to the investigation will be released at this time.

Upon learning of this incident the other schools in the area were immediately checked to ensure the safety of students on those campuses. The incident appears to be isolated to the San Gabriel School campus and no ongoing threat has been identified. Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Atascadero Police Department at (805) 461-5051.