

PRESS RELEASE

On 3/08/2021 at 8:52am Newaygo Police Department Officers were dispatched to the Newaygo High School for an explosion at the school. A 16-year-old student brought a homemade explosive device into the classroom.

The device detonated in the classroom, injuring the 16-year-old and four additional classmates. High School Administration dialed 911 and emergency services arrived on scene. The school was immediately evacuated and students were transferred to the bus garage. All Newaygo County Schools went into lockdown according to county emergency operations plan until information was obtained that there were no further threats to students.

School staff and first responders worked diligently to determine what had happened and if there were additional risks to students. The 16-year-old was taken to the hospital for moderate-severe injuries while four others were sent to the hospital for minor injuries. The four students with minor injuries were transported to the hospital by their parents. The classroom teacher also sought treatment at the hospital.

Due to the smoke from the explosion, a need by our investigative partners to be in the building, and student safety, a collaborative decision was made to dismiss high school students for the day and a family reunification plan was released. K-8 students remain in session and there is no threat in these buildings.

The investigation continues into what kind of material was involved in the explosion and the circumstances contributing. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms are on scene to assist with identifying the explosive materials involved. This incident is being investigated by the Newaygo Police Department and the Michigan State Police Hart Post with full assistance of Newaygo Public School staff.

You are being asked to stay away from Newaygo High School area as this is an on-going investigation. The Newaygo Police Department was assisted at the scene by the Michigan State Police Hart Post, Michigan State Police Bomb Squad, Newaygo County Sheriff's Office, Fremont Police Department, White Cloud Police Department, Newaygo Fire First Responders, Muskegon County Haz-Mat, Grant Police Department, Life EMS, and Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

This is believed to be an isolated incident and remains under investigation. If you have any further questions please contact Newaygo Police Department at 231.652.1655.