

Anonymous & Bystander Threats

Created January 2025

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- i. NEVER do this alone. We will meet as an administrative team to handle this together.
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What to do During an Anonymized Threat Incident

School received a report or is made aware of an anonymized threat

1 Threat the threat as initially credible

2 Engage law enforcement to determine which assets need to be on scene immediately to ensure safety

3 Gather as much information about the threat as possible

4 Modify initial response actions based on information gathering

5 Resolve the threat

6 Communicate to families when emergency has been resolved



Weighing the Level of Concern Posed by an Anonymized Threat



Audience

Broad transmission to many online followers /
Multiple independent reports of threats.



Escalation

Last report language / History of serious threats



Feasibility

Specific attack location, timing, weapons, tactics /
suicidal intent / physical proximity to target /
Focus on attack outcomes (e.g. causality counts) /
Awareness of legal outcomes.



Motive

Prior relationship to target / personalized
language



Warning Behaviors

Warrior or commando mentality / references to
past attacks

Factors which Decrease Concern



Audience

Threat appears on social media platform not
commonly used by youth



Feasibility

Immature language / Non-native English



Uniqueness of Threat

Multiple schools receive same or similar
threat. / Recycled images, or language



Feasibility

Specific or personalized language easily
available to the public



Timing

Proximity in time to other violent incidents

Factors which Increase Concern

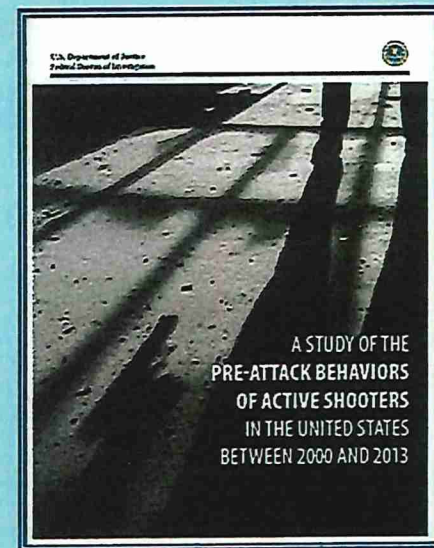


No Direct Warning

Since 1764 – over 500 acts of violence at schools K-12 and college.

No school shooter, or other active shooter, has ever provided a direct warning via telephone, email or social media.

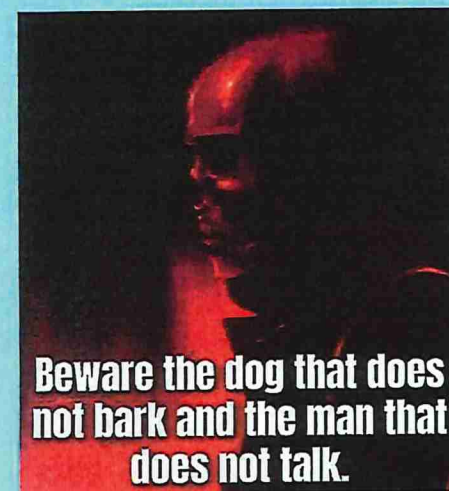
The #1 indicator that it's a hoax is the warning.



Bomb Threat & Swatting Characteristics

- **Call received on non-emergency line – Not 911**
 - Real incident would result in numerous 911 calls.
- Single Call, from VOIP or spoofed number
- May have specific name of school/building or address
 - But can't answer follow-up questions
- Mispronounces street, building or school names
- Digitized voice and/or accent
- Story changes or escalates with questioning
- "Call of Duty Speak" – specific names of weapons
- Tone and demeanor is inconsistent with crime being reported.
- Background noise
 - Clicking of mouse
 - Recording of gunshots

**#1 indicator is that
they are warning you!**



Email Threat Indicators

- Lack specifics, No details, Nothing can be verified
- Sent to multiple email address
- Make grand claims (e.g., “there is a bomb in every Synagogue, school etc.”)
- Affiliation with terrorist group
- Call of Duty Speak
- Sent by anonymous email services (Mail.Ru, Sendity, Beeble, etc),
- Contact US form on website

Low Risk Threat

Anonymous, Vague and indirect, pose a minimum risk to the victim or public safety.

- Lack specifics, No details, Nothing can be verified
- Make grand claims (e.g., “there is a bomb in every Synagogue, school etc.”)
- Call received on Police Non-Emergency Number
- Sent by anonymous email services (Mail.RU, Sendity, Beeble, etc)
- Contact US form on website
- Suicide Prevention Hotline

(U//LES) Situational Awareness: Veteran’s Suicide Hotline Chat Function School Threats Referencing Vermont Schools – September 26, 2024

(U//LES) The VIC is aware of multiple reports of school threats originating from a Veteran’s Suicide Hotline chat function referencing Vermont schools this morning. According to Fusion Center partners, these threats have affected other AORs in the region this month. Some recurring characteristics among these calls include:

1. Veteran’s Crisis Line reports they received a call or message through their chat function;
2. Caller provides a first and last name (ex. Mark Rim, David Seep);
3. Caller states they are in a bathroom in the school or are outside the school; and
4. Caller states they have an AR-15 or shotgun and “wants to kill everyone.”