



MARK C. CURRAN
SHERIFF
RAYMOND J. ROSE
UNDERSHERIFF

DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: August 18, 2015

TO: County Administrator Barry Burton
Assistant County Administrator Amy McEwan

FROM:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Curran".

Sheriff Mark C. Curran

REFERENCE: Request for Authorization to Temporarily Close Route 173 on
October 9, 2015

The Lake County Sheriff's Office School Safety Team, in conjunction with the Beach Park School District, has been planning a full-scale National Incident Management System (NIMS) Active Shooter Exercise that will take place on October 9, 2015 at Newport School. Newport School is located at 15872 W 21st Street, Wadsworth, Illinois 60083.

Subsequent to significant critical incidents at schools; protocols, strategies and techniques have been developed to train law enforcement officers; fire, medical and school personnel and other first responders to protect life and property by neutralizing or stopping a threat; thereby preventing injuries or casualties to the students or school personnel.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Homeland Security Unit and School Safety Team developed this exercise with the purpose of producing a realistic representation of an active shooter at a school. The exercise includes injured students (adults role playing as children), faculty, fatalities, and an improvised explosive device in a vehicle in the school's parking lot. The exercise will test mission specific core capabilities through the implementation and coordination of emergency plans, policies, procedures, communications, decision making protocols, and the responder's abilities to competently manage a critical incident. It will further demonstrate the Lake County Sheriff's Office compliance with FEMA and IEMA mandates in planning capabilities, collaborative efforts with partner agencies, and rapid response protocols relevant to terrorist related incidents at a school.

The exercise will focus on the Lake County Sheriff's Office Highway Patrol Units, Tactical Response Team, Reserve Deputy Unit, 911 Emergency Communications and Dispatch Center, Homeland Security Unit, Lake County Emergency Management Agency, Beach Park School District, Durham Bus Company and the School Safety Team. This will be through collaborative efforts with partner agencies including: Newport Fire Protection District, Waukegan Fire Department, Condell Medical Center, Beach Park School District, and County and Municipal government administrators. In addition, 10 municipal police agencies will be participating as first responders.

On the morning of the exercise we will be staging all police and fire participants (approximately 50) in the Van Patten Woods Forest Preserve. For the safety of all involved, it is imperative that all police stage in the Forest Preserve to be briefed and safety checks conducted. Route 173 will need to be closed for the safety of motoring traffic and our participants, as there will be a large amount of foot/first responder's vehicle traffic from the staging area to the school, which are separated by Route 173. Although we will be using the Forest Preserve for the staging area, the lots are too narrow to accommodate the fire engines that will also be participating. Due to the size of the engines, they will have to stage along Route 173.

Route 173 would need to be closed from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., between Route 41, East to Kilbourne Road. In preparation for the road closing, notification will be made to all residents in the immediate area. Lake County DOT will have road closure information posted along the roadway several days before the exercise. On the day of the exercise, Lake County Reserve Deputies will be deployed to help re-direct any traffic. Large signs will be on the roadways advising a Police Training Exercise is in Progress.

If Route 173 is not closed during the exercise, we will not be able to control the safety of the first responders who be crossing and parking on Route 173 and the motoring public could become alarmed and disturbed by all the police activity, not noticing the signs and believing a real incident is occurring. This would be a major distraction to drivers which could result in accidents causing harm to the public and our first responders.

During the exercise, there will be 13 evaluators critiquing response to the aforementioned core capabilities. Immediately following the exercise all participants will be included in a "hot wash" (de-brief of the exercise). After the exercise the planners will meet with evaluators to develop an "After Action Plan" outlining improvements that need to be made, how the changes will be implemented and the time frame to be accomplished.

This full scale exercise is designed to establish a learning environment for players to exercise emergency response plans, policies, and procedures as they pertain to an active shooter at a private or public school within Lake County jurisdiction. This exercise is to provide participants with an opportunity to evaluate current response concepts, plans, and core capabilities concerning a terrorist related incident.

Thank you for your consideration of the closure of Route 173 on October 9th, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The closure of the road will ensure the safety of the motoring public that use Route 173, the safety of the first responders who will be crossing the road and the engine drivers who will be parked along the Route 173.