



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Steve Rehorst, Captain
City of Watertown, SD

Hoax Threat at Watertown High School

Watertown, SD – August 22, 2025

Today, at approximately 9:00 am, the Watertown Police Department received a call reporting an individual with a weapon at Watertown High School. Watertown Police Department officers notified school officials immediately, and the High School Resource Officer responded to the reported area. Out of an abundance of caution, the school initiated lockdown procedures. Working in close coordination with the school administration and staff, multiple officers secured the school and conducted a thorough search of the school.

The investigation concluded that the report did not represent a credible threat. At this time, investigators believe the call was a hoax, and the investigation is ongoing. We take any report of violence at our schools extremely seriously. These hoaxes are dangerous and drain public safety resources. Under South Dakota Law, these types of crimes are a Class 5 felony.

Please avoid sharing rumors online; rely on official updates from the school district and WPD. If you have information about today's call or any similar threat, contact the Watertown Police Department. As always, call 911 to report an immediate threat. We also want the public to understand that these threats do not necessarily come from someone in Watertown, and they can originate from anywhere, including out of state or even outside the country.

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City of Watertown

Watertown Police Department
Phone: (605) 882-6210