

SWATTING Are you prepared to be SWATTED?

HEADLINES PROVE THIS IS A BIG PROBLEM-

Police Respond to Apparent Swatting Call at Alexandria Home of DHS Secretary

Police Receive 'Swatting' Call to San Francisco Home Linked to Instagram Exec

Rash of 'swatting' hoaxes on East End costly, dangerous, officials say

'Swatting' incident led to massive police response in Upland

'Swatting' prank 911 call leads police, SWAT to Myrtle Beach home

Police: Trenton Man Accused Of Making 17 'Swatting' Hoax Emergency Calls

'Swatting' incident forces radio station, preschool to lock down in Pleasant Prairie

Threat to Shoot 'Anyone' at Millbury Inn Deemed 'Swatting' Call: Police

Threat at Northumberland County Schools Investigated as a SWATTING Incident

Summit County Sheriff's Office investigating 'SWATting' hoax in Park City

Oxford defines SWATTING as “The action or practice of making a hoax call to the emergency services in an attempt to bring about the dispatch of a large number of armed police officers to a particular address.”

This is no joke. Do a search on “swatting” & “News”, you should be surprised on what you find. This is a daily occurrence all over the USA.

Police do not research the call, they react in force. Time is critical in a real event. Make the wrong move and an innocent person may die for a hoax.

After the incident, part of my tradecraft is process and policy improvement. I made mistakes in my approach. Things learned and researched after the fact are documented in this paper.

The more a person is on social media, the more risk. Easy to look up a name, address and find out other data on a random person.

TIMELINE

5PM Wednesday – I awoke from a deep sleep nap, to the sound of pounding on my apartment door. The last thing on my mind was the police are here. I thought it may be a Fire Rescue person or neighbor in distress.

I could not see out my peep hole blocked by a hanging decoration. I opened the door-

Surprise – I find 6 plus officers in the hallway.

Upon training and instinct, I showed my hands and asked calmly what I could help with. I was told a call came in and that they are responding (It was a specific threat). I had no pants on and it was cold, but for me to go back inside they had to follow me, which is where I will not make that mistake again.

Nothing to hide and knowing this was a hoax call, I calmly answered questions and assured the officers I was fine and not a threat. They did ask for ID, and lucky I had that in the front of the home.

I explained I do compete in action shooting events, Range Officer, and do have a web presence. My id had been stolen 8 times. I have an ex-wife. They did ask to see the firearms, I respectfully refused and said they are in a safe, unloaded and all I do is ski in the winter.

Since I have been following changes in police policy regarding mental health, I knew the next step. Sir would you mind waiting 20 minutes for the Crisis Team. Sure, I can wait. Crisis Team arrives, Gentleman asks a few questions and then all leave.

RULE # 1 SHOW HANDS RULE #2 STAY CALM RULE #3 ARTICULATE

LESSONS LEARNED

Police do their job based on policy and protocol

Always be able to see out peep hole (adding an audio/video cam at door)

HAVE ID HANDY along with clothing/coat

Without a warrant you do not have to open the door, I could have gone in the hall, but was too cold once I opened the door the police at that moment have access. They did follow my wishes that they did not roam.

I DO NOT WANT THIS TO BE A HARASSMENT ISSUE

I emailed Internal Affairs the next day and explained the issue. I knew the police had the number that called in the hoax. I asked them to check and if it matched a few maybe suspects and location if the police would make sure the person was notified of outcome and not to become a harassment.

This was not a RED FLAG. Red Flag requires documentation from a narrow focus of observers and a Judge to sign papers. This was an anonymous call.

Nothing on my web sites or comments have any threats. I use multiple branding companies to check my background.

What is the definition of an Emergency? That is the real issue and it is not defined.