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News Release

HPD Continues Bomb Threat Investigation

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The Harrisonburg Police Department is continuing to search for answers and information surrounding yesterday's bomb threat.

Yesterday morning at 9:18 a.m. officers responded to the Wachovia Bank, 1795 S. Main St. for the report of a male, who entered the bank with an explosive device strapped to his back.

Everyone inside the bank was able to leave without incident and with no reported injuries.

Communication was made with the male and he was able to exit the bank without incident.

The device was removed from the male's person and determined not to be an explosive device. No other devices were found inside the bank or in the surrounding area.

"The first priority yesterday was to ensure the safety of everyone involved," said Mary-Hope Vass, HPD's Public Information Officer. "Thankfully everyone was able to leave the incident without any reported injuries."

The investigation continued into late last night to determine the circumstances surrounding this incident.

Through the investigation, it was discovered that several other individuals may be involved.

The male involved in the bomb threat, reported that he was forced from a location on Rex Road, by two unknown black males, to withdraw money from his bank account.

Both males were allegedly carrying a handgun when they made contact with the male.

This continues to be an ongoing investigation and investigators are following-up on all possible leads. Additional information will be released as the investigation continues.

HPD received a great deal of assistance from law enforcement and local businesses during the incident that occurred yesterday. The Rockingham County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Harrisonburg Fire Department, Harrisonburg Rescue, FBI, ATF, U.S. Marshals Service, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center, and the Department of Public Works were all major resources during the bomb threat.

No charges have been placed at this time.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Crime Solvers at 574-5050.