



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bowie Police Department to Host Active Shooter Drill at Samuel Ogle Middle School
Prince George's County and other officials will participate in the multi-agency exercise.

(Bowie, MD) - On the morning of July 31, 2014, the Bowie Police Department, the Prince George's County Police and Fire/EMS Departments, and other local agencies will conduct an Active Shooter Drill at Samuel Ogle Middle School in Bowie. Over 160 individuals are expected to participate in this exercise to practice police and fire/EMS response to a dangerous situation in a local school.

Organizers are publicizing the drill in advance so that local residents are not alarmed by the strong police, fire, and emergency presence that they will find in the area on the 31st and so that they can be prepared for the minor traffic impacts that are expected.

The drill will simulate an active shooter at a public school and how the Bowie Police Department, the Prince George's County Police Department, Prince George's County Fire Department and other police departments, agencies, and first responders would react, communicate, and coordinate personnel and resources during such a fluid and chaotic event.

Set up for the drill will begin around 6:30 a.m. on Thursday. The drill itself is anticipated to last around three hours, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending by noon. Cleanup is expected to be completed by 1 p.m. During that time there will be a small impact on traffic near Samuel Ogle Middle School. The Bowie Police Department will close Chelmont Lane to through traffic. Residents of Chelmont will only be able to access their homes from the Clearfield Drive end of the street.

The objective of this drill is to provide first responders an opportunity to utilize their training in a real time environment. "Drills such as these are critical not only for reinforcing tactical skills but

for also providing a first-hand understanding of how large in scope and challenging an event like this will be. This drill will test everyone from the first officer on the scene to the supervisors trying to establish command and control of units and personnel from numerous jurisdictions. We want to make sure that all of the potential players in this scenario are prepared, that the response is well coordinated, and that everyone is communicating effectively. We are fortunate to have such a high level of partnership with all of the participating agencies” said Chief John Nesky of the Bowie Police Department. Fire Chief Marc Bashoor, who is pleased to have his department participate in the exercise said, “Embedding a crew of paramedics with a law enforcement entry team is a growing trend across the country and requires an overabundance of oversight and training. We will use every opportunity to train to the point we can’t get it wrong.”

Participants will include the Bowie Police Department, Prince George’s County Police Department, Prince George’s County Sheriff’s Office, Prince George’s County Public Schools, Prince George’s County Public Schools Security Services, Prince George’s County Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Prince George’s County Emergency Response System, Prince George’s County Homeland Security, Maryland State Police, Bowie State University Police Department, Anne Arundel County Police Department, and City of Bowie Park Rangers.

Samuel Ogle is located at 4111 Chelmont Lane in Bowie. It is one of two middle schools in the City and one of approximately a dozen public and private schools in the area. In the last few years Bowie Police have been visiting local schools to talk with staff members about how to recognize and respond to potentially volatile situations. This grant-funded exercise is a logical next step to that training. The Bowie Police Department began planning this drill several months ago. Last year, the Bowie Police held a smaller scale, active shooter drill at Bowie Town Center.

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