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# When a stranger comes to call

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School tests its ability to detect intruder in building

By Jessica Burns

HAMBURG — A stranger visited Hamburg school Oct. 29.

A stranger who was invited by the police and school.

The idea was to test the school's ability to detect a stranger, and the program was arranged by the Hamburg Township School in conjunction with the borough's police department.

Chief of Police Jan Wright orchestrated the Mock Intruder Drill, and he chose a 21-year-old female criminal justice student from Sussex County Community College to play the part of the "intruder."

She wore plain looking clothes and entered the building carrying a package, saying she wanted to visit Dorothy Smalley, a teacher at the school.

"Mrs. Smalley gets visits from old students a lot and someone asking to visit her wouldn't raise alert," said vice principal Roger A. Jinks.

The "intruder" walked up and down the halls for seven minutes before a substitute secretary had a funny feeling and didn't think the situation was right, according to Jinks.

The only people who knew beforehand about the drill were Chief School Administrator Steve Engravalle, Jinks and Wright.

The regular office staff was away at a workshop and was replaced by a substitute staff for the day. The substitute secretary called Smalley, who said she had not received the package.

Seven minutes

That's when Wright and Jinks let the staff know the event was a drill.

On Nov. 3, a meeting was held to explain to the staff why the drill took place. Administrators encouraged staff members to take action and call 911 as soon as any danger is recognized.

"We think seven minutes is pretty good," Jinks said. "However, if it were a real situation, a lot could have happened in seven minutes."

Security measures

The school regularly conducts fire, evacuation and lockdown drills. Vice principal Roger A. Jinks said one reason the school felt the need for the intruder drill was because of events that have happened around the country.

The police department uses the school for training and to learn the layout of school in case of evacuation.

Emergency procedure guides are located in every room in the school and employees are trained how to deal with emergencies.

The school has cameras located inside and outside the building, with viewing accessible to both school and police officials.

The school is always locked.

To enter the school, visitors are directed to sign in at the office.

**It's one thing to say we have a good security system, but it's another thing to test it."**

Police Chief Jan Wright