



## Joint Press Release on August 27<sup>th</sup> Alertus False Alarm at Londonderry High School

Dear Londonderry,

The purpose of the message is to follow up in more detail on the August 27th Alertus False Alarm that occurred at Londonderry High School (LHS).

It is customary for our Emergency Operations Committee (a partnership of School Administrators, the Londonderry Police Department, and the Londonderry Fire Department) to debrief all incidents after they occur to learn from them and better prepare for the safety of our students and staff in the future. From this process we want to highlight:

**The importance of redundant communication systems between the School District and Police Department.** Within seconds of the water leak tripping one of our Alertus buttons at LHS, school staff were able to identify it was a false alarm. Two phone calls from LHS went directly to dispatch at the Londonderry Police Department within those first few minutes to let them know it was a false alarm. While this communication was occurring, our School Resource Officers also received direct communication from the school system through shared radios and an Alertus App that administrators were using at the time. The LPD dispatch also heard all communications through a shared radio. Within those first few minutes both organizations understood and communicated clearly it was a false alarm at LHS.

These multiple redundant communication systems keep our staff and students safe at all times.

One School Resource Officer was on site to assist the school administrators returning the school building back to normal functions that afternoon in the aftermath of the false alarm.

On the afternoon of August 27<sup>th</sup>, the Alertus beacon at the Londonderry Police Department did not trigger an alarm at dispatch while all the other beacons worked at Londonderry High School. Yesterday afternoon we tested the beacon at the LPD from two separate schools, and it did work successfully. Both IT Departments will continue to collaborate to determine the nature of the malfunction on August 27th.

The strong partnership between the Londonderry Police Department, Londonderry Fire Department, and the Londonderry School District kept all students and staff safe that afternoon and will continue to do so in the future.

Chief of Police Kim Bernard

Superintendent of Schools Dan Black