Gilroy standoff ends; Cabrillo College Aptos campus declared safe

UPDATED 4:52 PM PDT Apr 18, 2013

APTOS, Calif. -

A suspicious package found at Cabrillo College' caused the entire Aptos campus to be evacuated. In an unrelated bomb scare, a Gilroy school was evacuated around the same time because witnesses believed a man inside an apartment had a bomb and guns.

The suspicious package was found outside Cabrillo College's 400 building Thursday morning. Students received emergency cellphone text messages at 10:50 a.m. and Santa Cruz County Sheriff's deputies advised students to go home.

More than 1,000 students calmly left the campus.

A bomb squad used a robot to X-ray the package and determined it was harmless. The campus security alert was lifted at 2 p.m. and classes resumed to their regular schedule.

Meanwhile, over in Gilroy, a bomb squad and hostage negotiation team spent several hours at the Cypress Point apartment complex on Kern Avenue.

Witnesses told Gilroy police officers that a man may have a bomb and firearms inside one of the apartments. A standoff ensued between the man and a SWAT team.

All Cypress Point residents were evacuated and a shelter was set up at the Gilroy Senior Center for displaced residents. Rod Kelley Elementary School on Kern Avenue was placed on lockdown.

"Local schools have been notified and are working on plans to manage student release in a safe and organized manner at the end of the school day," City of Gilroy spokesman Joe Kline said at 2 p.m. "It is important to stress that no school children are in danger."

The standoff ended when the man surrendered peacefully just after 4:15 p.m.