Suspicious package destroyed

Upper campus evacuated in bomb scare

By STEPHEN BAXTER

APTOS — Cabrillo College's upper campus was evacuated for about four hours on Thursday after a suspicious package was reported about 10:30 a.m. The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad destroyed the package but declined to describe its contents Thursday. No one was injured and the upper campus reopened about 2 p.m., said Santa Cruz County sheriff's deputy April Ballard.

John Hendrickson, Cabrillo's interim president, said more than 1,000 students, faculty and staff were told to leave in person, by phone and through the campus text messaging system, AlertU.

"Safety is foremost," Hendrickson said. "I'm glad we acted the way we did. We believe that taking a cautious and protective stance is the only and best course of action."

Someone reported the suspicious package, which was white and about 1 foot by 1 foot by 1 foot, located in an outside building 401, according to college staff.

The two-story building has at least six classrooms and offices for human arts, social sciences, anthropology, communications and the Cabrillo Takes student newspaper. Departmental AlertU text message to subscribers at 10:30 a.m. that stated buildings 400, 500, 600 and 700 were being evacuated because of a suspicious package.

The county's bomb team examined the package with a robot and destroyed it about 12:40 p.m. in a parking lot at Central Fire, the California Highway Patrol and American Central Fire, the California Highway Patrol and American Central Fire, the California Highway Patrol and American Central Fire, the California Highway Patrol and American

A report by the City College District said a recycling bin at building 400 on campus Thursday.

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Medical Response responded to the call.

Caitlin Devlin, deputy director of public relations and social sciences, was one of a few hundred people who had to leave building 400.

"I just came back from the library and someone said 'Come help me clean out classrooms.' So we did," Devlin said.

Students generally were calm as they walked down hill and across Sequoia Drive.

Cabrillo student Kevin Smith, 24, said he was on his way to class from a parking garage when "a wave of people" walked toward him. He realized something was up, but he said he didn't think he was in immediate danger because the crowd wasn't running.

Smith, a political science major, said word of mouth spread quickly and that there was a scramble to find a safe place.

"I'm down and miss classes right now," Smith said. The situation comes as police across the nation are on heightened alert following Monday's bomb attacks at the Boston Marathon, which killed three people.

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