



ASOTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF M. RENZELMAN

CITY OF ASOTIN



Swatting Incident in Asotin

Today at approximately 12:45 hrs, the Asotin Police Department responded to a distressing incident involving a suspected “**swatting**” call.

The Asotin Police was advised of an abduction in progress at an address in Asotin. It was reported a juvenile female was being abducted from an address in Asotin through a burglary in progress. With this very basic information that was provided, law enforcement responded to the scene.

However, after investigation, it was determined that this was a swatting call—a malicious hoax intended to provoke a police emergency response to an unsuspecting individual or location. The phone number used was “spoofed”. Due to the emotional responses generated, it is often easier for the victim to believe that the situation is genuinely occurring.

This is the second similar call involving a Swatting call in Asotin County and the City of Asotin within the past month.

Swatting is a dangerous form of harassment where an individual falsely reports a serious emergency—such as a hostage situation, bomb threat, or active shooter—to law enforcement, prompting a rapid and often armed response. These calls are often made anonymously and can result in significant trauma, injury, or even loss of life, as well as the waste of valuable law enforcement resources.

Community Safety Tips:

Be cautious of unexpected calls, especially from unlisted or unknown numbers.

Do not share personal or family information over the phone unless you are certain of the caller’s identity.

If you receive a threatening or suspicious call, contact your local law enforcement immediately to verify the situation.

Recognize the signs of a false emergency: inconsistent details, language barriers, or emotional distress that appear staged.

Report any suspicious calls or activities to law enforcement to help prevent potential harm to others.

We urge residents to remain vigilant and report any concerns. Swatting incidents are taken very seriously, and cooperation from the community is vital to ensure the safety of all.

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