



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

|                           |  |                  |     |
|---------------------------|--|------------------|-----|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Safety Reminders: School Lockdown Procedures |                  |     |
| <b>Releasing Officer:</b> | Lt. Ron McMillin                             |                  |     |
| <b>Date:</b>              | March 23, 2016                               |                  |     |
| <b>Press Release Log:</b> | <b>16-003</b>                                | <b>Report #:</b> | N/A |

(Westerville, Ohio) – ***A message from the Westerville Division of Police to Westerville City Schools Parents & Guardians:***

This morning, Westerville South High School was placed on a brief lockdown during a Westerville Division of Police investigation. While no threats to student and faculty safety were found, WPD wants to take this opportunity to remind you and your family of important safety procedures. As part of our ongoing effort to ensure the safety of Westerville residents, students, visitors, schools and businesses we remind you:

### IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

A student reporting something suspicious or out of the ordinary is the right thing to do. We applaud the fact that students and administrators contacted public safety officials with no hesitation. The safest course of action is to always follow the "if you see something, say something" idea and allow us to respond and investigate.

### AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION

We also want you to remember that first responders will respond quickly, and nothing should impede our ability to do that. People and vehicles coming to the scene adds to the time it takes us to properly secure it. The safest practice is for parents to remain off-site unless called to the school. This is the best way to ensure first responders have clear access to the school and the students.

### KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

We understand the fear and concern we face as a nation at this time. That's why WPD developed a public education series to review active shooting incidents and educate participants on tactics to consider in such a scenario. Trained officers will explain active shooter trends and how to develop a plan of action based on research, statistics and best practices.

Two classes are currently scheduled. Both classes will be held in Council Chambers at Westerville City Hall, 21 S. State St., and size is limited to the first 100 people age 18 or older (or 14 or older with a parent or guardian). Attendance is free, but registration is required. Call the Westerville Division of Police at (614) 901-6472 for more information or register online at [www.westerville.org/police](http://www.westerville.org/police).

Saturday, March 12  
9 a.m.

Tuesday, April 26  
6:30 p.m.

For more information the Westerville Division of Police, visit [www.westerville.org/police](http://www.westerville.org/police).

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