White Substance Found in Letter at County Facility

At approximately 11:14 am today, April 17, 2015, a Department of Social Services employee located at 1318 S. Broadway in Santa Maria, opened an envelope containing a small amount of white chunky pieces of an unknown substance wrapped in foil.

A number of partner agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Santa Maria City Fire Department, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, including the Santa Barbara County Hazardous Materials Unit, Santa Maria Police Department, the Emergency Medical Services Agency and the County Public Health Department responded to the scene. The building was evacuated and precautions were taken to protect employees and the public.

Samples of the white substance were sent to the reference laboratory in San Luis Obispo for laboratory testing. The Federal Bureau of Investigation determined that the threat was not credible requiring a higher level of response. Employees and the public are safe.

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