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**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## PRESS RELEASE

### *KPBSD schools practice Level II lockdown drills in response to alleged threat*

**Soldotna, January 6, 2012—Students, staff, and administrators at KPBSD schools participated in Level II Lockdown and “Hit The Deck” drills as part of the KPBSD Emergency Action Plan (EAP).**

On Tuesday, January 3, 2012, Superintendent Steve Atwater was informed by the Homer Police Department that an incarcerated individual had allegedly threatened violence at a KPBSD school. No specific KPBSD school was named.

In response, and as part of our ongoing EAP drills designed for “prevention, preparedness, response and recovery,” Dr. Atwater instructed all school administrators to hold a Level II Lockdown drill and a “Hit The Deck” drill by the end of the day on Friday, January 06, 2012. A Level II drill includes staff and students. All KPBSD schools reported participating; one school had already practiced before winter break. KPBSD thanks local police and troopers who were present at some schools.

Superintendent Steve Atwater said,

“At no time were our schools in immediate danger by the individual who made the alleged threat. I am pleased with the good response by our schools when practicing a lockdown drill and by the close cooperation with the four city police departments and Alaska State Troopers.”

The individual who made the alleged threat remains incarcerated, and has been moved to a facility outside of our borough. The school district is continuing to work closely with the Alaska State Troopers who have jurisdiction over this case, and local police in Homer, Kenai, Seward, and Soldotna. All law enforcement authorities are working closely together.

KPBSD emergency action drills include fire, earthquake, evacuation, directed response, and lockdowns among others.

Families trust our schools to keep their children safe during the day. The reality is, however, that schools may be touched either directly or indirectly by a crisis at any time. Knowing what to do when faced with a crisis can mean the difference between calm and chaos, courage and fear, life and death.

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