



**SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT  
COUNTY OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA**

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**SANDRA HUTCHENS  
SHERIFF-CORONER**

**NEWS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**OC Sheriff's Department Response to School Shooting in Connecticut**

**SANTA ANA, California** (December 14, 2012) – “While the tragic events in Newtown, Connecticut appear to be isolated, deputies will have an increased presence at local schools,” said Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families and all affected by this tragedy.”

The Orange County Sheriff's Department has a sophisticated, integrated response plan to act quickly and protect citizens in the event of a local emergency. The department's highly-trained specialty units include a Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Mobile Field Force, School Resource Officers (SROs), and School Mobile Assessment Resource Team (SMART).

The Orange County Sheriff's Department has a strong, collaborative relationship with local schools. Deputy Sheriffs, known as School Resource Officers (SROs), are on the campus of many schools on a daily basis. SROs work in partnership with school administrators on ongoing student trends, problems at schools and efforts to provide appropriate services to students and school administrators.

In addition, the department's School Mobile Assessment Resource Team (SMART) works in conjunction with school officials to resolve threats or safety issues and concerns involving all personnel associated with schools. SMART is utilized in school situations or incidents related to violence, threats, possession and/or use of weapons, unstable behaviors and suicidal actions or tendencies.

We encourage the community to be vigilant and partner with us to report suspicious activity by calling the Orange County Sheriff's Department at (714) 647-7000 or (949) 770-6011. If you have a tip to report and wish to remain anonymous, call Orange County Crime Stoppers at 1-855-TIP-OCCS (847-6227).

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