



NEWS RELEASE



EUREKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Date: Thursday, 12/13/2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Subject: Electronic Bomb Hoax Sent to Local Businesses

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The Eureka Police Department received reports from two local businesses today warning of a bomb planted inside their businesses.

The threats were sent via e-mail to employees stating that an explosive device had been hidden inside the business and would be detonated if the employee did not send \$20,000 dollars in bitcoin to a specific bitcoin address.

USA Today newspaper reports, "A torrent of bomb threats emailed to universities, businesses, schools and news outlets Thursday from New York City to San Francisco sent police departments scrambling to sort out what appeared to be a nationwide electronic hoax aimed at extorting bitcoins from its targets".

The New York City Police Department said the threats were meant to cause disruption and compel recipients into sending money and were not considered credible."

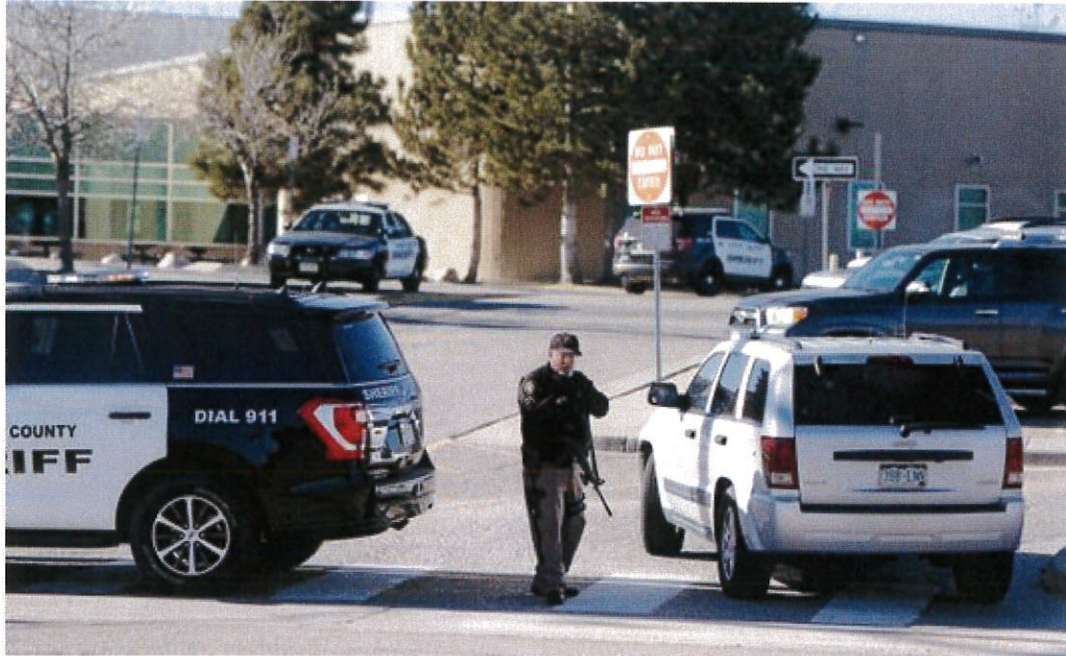
The Eureka Police Department investigated the threats and found no credible threat. "These threats seem consistent with similar threats happening nationally," stated EPD Sergeant Cory Crnich. "We found no explosive devices in or around the businesses."

The Eureka Police Department is publicizing this scam in case other businesses received similar e-mails.

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Police departments nationwide sent scrambling by flood of e-mailed bomb threats

[Doug Stanglin](#), [USA TODAY](#) Published 3:34 p.m. ET Dec. 13, 2018 | Updated 4:58 p.m. ET Dec. 13, 2018



A member of the Jefferson County, Colo., Sheriff's Department stands guard outside the main driveway to Columbine High School Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018, in Littleton, Colo. Students were kept inside the building as a large police response was summoned because a caller claimed to have placed explosive devices in the school and was hiding outside with a weapon. The call was determined to be false. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)(Photo: David Zalubowski, AP)

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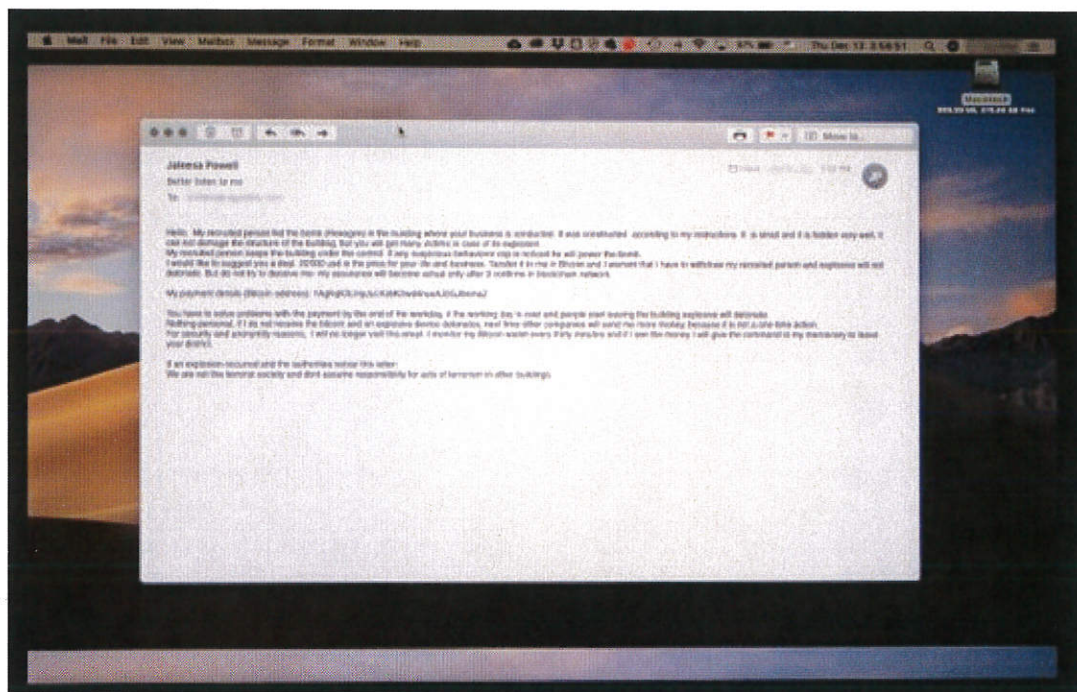
There were no reports that any actual explosive devices had been discovered, but the threats alone had forced many police departments to monitor and investigate.

"We are currently monitoring multiple bomb threats that have been sent electronically to various locations throughout the city," The New York City Counterterrorism Bureau said on [Twitter](#) in the afternoon.

"These threats are also being reported to other locations nationwide & are NOT considered credible at this time," the statement said.

The emails were sent to tens of thousands of targets nationwide to dozens of cities, including Seattle, Orlando, Atlanta, San Francisco, Oklahoma City, and Detroit and continued for hours.

Many of the threats demanded \$20,000 in bitcoin, [according to AppRiver](#), a Florida-based cybersecurity company that obtained copies of the emails. Some had the subject line: "Think Twice."



An emailed hoax bomb threat is seen on a computer screen in Burlington, Mass. on Dec. 13, 2018. (Photo: CJ GUNTHER, EPA-EFE)

In one, the sender warned that a "recruited mercenary" had placed an explosive device in the targeted building and would detonate it unless the payment was made.

Troy Gill, manager of security research at AppRiver, said the poorly worded emails, which used non-native English, were being sent by a server in Moscow, although it was not clear whether the perpetrators were located in Russia or elsewhere in the world.

In one message, obtained by AppRiver, the senders said, "We are not a terrorist society and dont (sic) assume liability for acts of terrorism in other places."

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Gill said they appeared to be related to a recent flood of "sextortion" emails in which the sender tried to extort money from the recipient by threatening to release embarrassing video.

In Detroit, police were dispatched to the Guardian Building and the Wayne County Treasury building, after an officer received a threat to blow up the Treasurer's building Thursday.

"One of our employees got an email threatening that if money wasn't transferred into a designated account, they were going to blow up 400 Monroe," Pageant Atterberry, a Wayne County Sheriff's spokeswoman, told The Detroit News. "Then, we got an anonymous phone call from someone threatening to blow up the same building. DPD is in charge, and they're evacuating the building."