



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police continue investigation for escaped prisoner, suspend ground search

Howard County police are continuing the investigation to locate escaped prisoner David Watson, but have suspended the ground search after exhausting all search efforts in the immediate area. Throughout the day Friday, overnight and into Saturday morning, police continued to search the area around Clifton T. Perkins hospital in Jessup with bloodhounds, K-9 units and helicopters with heat-seeking technology. There are no indications that Watson remains in the area and there have been no sightings.

The investigation remains active as officers from Howard County Police, U.S. Marshals Service and Maryland State Police continue to follow up on leads locally, and in Wicomico County, Md., and Delaware, where Watson also has ties.

Watson, 28, was being transported to the hospital on Dorsey Run Road by two guards from the Wicomico County Detention Center when he escaped custody and fled into a wooded area. The guards arrived in a van with Watson, who was the only prisoner, around 9:40 a.m. When they parked the van and opened the back door, Watson pushed a guard to the ground and ran into the woods. Investigators found handcuffs and a waist chain near the van.

Watson is serving a sentence of more than 100 years in a detention center in Delaware for attempted murder. He also has been charged in Wicomico County for attempted murder of police officers.

Watson is described as a white male, 5 feet eight inches tall and 140 pounds. He has face tattoos between his eyes and under his right eye, and numerous body tattoos, including "EVIL" on the back of his neck and "SIN" on his hand. He was last seen wearing all white clothing, with no markings or emblems. Investigators confirmed that Watson did not have access to a weapon at the time of the escape, as both of the guards' handguns were in lockboxes inside the van.

Police are still gathering information and evidence to determine if Watson's escape was planned, or if it was an impulsive act.

Additional information will be released as it becomes available.

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