



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Authorities continue search for escaped prisoner David Watson after possible sighting in Jessup

Authorities are back in the area in Jessup where prisoner David Watson escaped April 28, after police received a report of a possible sighting today. A local employee called 911 around 9:30 a.m. after spotting a man near the railroad tracks behind a building in the 8200 block of Dorsey Run Road. The caller reported that the man was wearing a white hard hat and a safety vest, which may be neon yellow or orange in color. The man ran when he was spotted.

Police responded to the area and located a number of workers who were ruled out as possible suspects. A short time later officers learned that a hard hat and safety vest had been stolen from a storage building about a mile away. In a search of the area near the recent sighting, officers found packing materials inside of a concrete drainage tunnel. Investigators suspect that Watson may have recently been in the tunnel. Search teams have also located shoe prints in the area.

A full ground search has resumed in the area, including helicopters, bloodhounds, K9 units, tactical teams, and law enforcement from Howard County Police, U.S. Marshals Service, Maryland State Police, Anne Arundel County Police, Howard County Sheriff's Office, Natural Resources Police, and CSX Police. Train service in the area is running, but at speeds that would not allow anyone to board. Dorsey Run Road is closed from the area of Clifton T. Perkins Hospital to Patuxent Range Road.

The search will cover industrial areas around the hospital, to include buildings, trucks, trailers, and other vehicles. Officers will also be searching woods and tunnels throughout the area.

Authorities initiated a search April 28 after receiving a call that Watson, 28, who was being transported to Perkins Hospital by guards from the Wicomico County Detention Center, had escaped during the transport. The primary search was turned over to the U.S. Marshals Service on May 1 and authorities offered a \$10,000 reward for information. Howard County Police continued to canvas the Jessup area this week and went door to door handing out flyers to local businesses.

Watson is serving a sentence of more than 100 years in a correctional facility in Delaware for attempted murder. He also has been charged in Wicomico County for attempted murder of law enforcement officers, and in Howard County for escape. Watson is described as a white male, 5 feet eight inches tall and 150 pounds. Investigators confirmed that Watson did not have access to a weapon at the time of the escape. Watson 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.

Anyone who sees Watson should not approach him and should call 911 immediately.

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