



CITY OF JOHNS CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT

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To: Congressman Eliot Engel

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Subject: Cost of Swatting – Amount of Police needed to respond

Obviously each case will vary slightly depending on location and nature of the hoax called in. Most responses will have a minimum of 20 or more law enforcement officers responding to these events.

The initial perimeter will have to be established around the reported location. Traffic will have to be blocked or diverted in the area, staging areas for Police and Fire Command Post will need to be established.

Police Departments that have Aviation units will have their helicopters on scene providing any needed assets from the air.

On the low end these hoaxes can cost close to \$10,000 per event depending on the time it takes to establish that it is in fact a swatting/hoax call. That deals with all the wasted hours of the responding officers on scene, equipment and tactical personnel that had to be mobilized, ie, SWAT, Bomb Squad, Aviation, K-9 units, Mobile Command Posts etc.

On the high end you can use the Swatting Hoax from June 12th 2012 off the coast of New Jersey. A person reported a luxury super yacht had caught fire and was sinking approx. 17 miles off shore. Person reported three dead; nine injured with 2nd and 3rd degree burns. Total of 21 people on board the vessel.

US Coast Guard dispatched planes, helicopters and well as several boats to the area. Police helicopters and Police boats from New York, New Jersey responded to the area. 200+ first responders were involved in the search and rescue before it was deemed a hoax. The estimated cost of this was reported to be over \$335,000. The offender in this case was never identified.

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/06/sandy_hook_boat_explosion_hoax.html

An April 2014 swatting incident in Long Beach, New York cost about \$100,000 as local police, Nassau County police and transit police -- including more than 70 first-responders -- responded to call from a man saying he had shot his family members and threatened to kill others. The call turned out to be a prank aimed at a 17-year old boy who was playing "Call of Duty," <http://abc7ny.com/archive/9512819/>

You can see by just a few of these incidents that the cost of personnel and equipment needed to respond to one of these swatting/hoax calls is significant. There is no way to measure the toll it has on the victims of these cases. Many being held at gun point, handcuffed or roused from their beds at night with the Police outside their homes.

Here is a link of a swatting case that almost turned tragic for this local Police Chief in Oklahoma.

<http://bearingarms.com/bob-o/2015/01/17/oklahoma-police-chief-shot-apparent-swatting-raid-homeowner->