



Harvard Police Department

Press Release

04-25-23

23-003743

AGGRAVATED ARSON

On 04-25-23 at approximately 1121 hrs, the School Resource Officer reported a loud noise and reported smoke in the area of the cafeteria at the Harvard High School, 1103 N Jefferson St.

This prompted a large response from the Harvard Police Department and the Harvard Fire Protection District and the evacuation of all students and staff at the High School. The school was searched for other devices and deemed clear and safe by responding first responders.

The preliminary investigation showed that a small group of students entered the bathroom and detonated a large firecracker causing substantial damage in the boy's bathroom on the main level of the school.

The Harvard Police Department worked cooperatively with Harvard High School Administration, and the Harvard Community Unit School District 50 Superintendent. As a result of the investigation, at approximately 1500 hrs, two Harvard Youths (m-16 yoa and m-14 yoa) were arrested and charged with one count of Aggravated Arson, one count of Arson, one count of Criminal Damage to State Supported Property, one count of Mob Action, and one count of Reckless Conduct after reviewing the case with the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office. The Youths were petitioned to McHenry County Court Services and subsequently transported to the Kane County Juvenile Detention Center.

No students or staff were injured during the incident. This case remains under investigation.

The public is reminded individuals arrested or charged is not evidence of guilt and that all defendants in a criminal case are presumed innocent until proven guilty is a court of law.