



Research Equipment Sets Off Police Activity

On April 2nd, Stanford Police were dispatched to investigate suspicious looking devices taped to structures (signposts and stairway railings) in the area of Cordura Hall. They were aided by Palo Alto Fire Department personnel and the County Bomb Squad. After investigation, the police determined the devices were part of a student project involving soda cans covered with duct tape. One of the offending items is pictured below.

This incident is a teachable moment for all of us and good information to pass on to others in your building.

1. See something, say something. Even if a false alarm, it is important to pay attention to suspicious items and to report them to authorities.

2. If you or any faculty/student in your department/school is conducting research experiments, whether inside the building or out, LABEL the research equipment with your name and contact information. A small tag on those cans would have saved a lot of stress of those near Cordura Hall. It also occupied many responders who could have been needed for other emergencies.

