



# City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police

## Press Release

**DATE OF EVENT:** 12/04/ 2017

**TYPE OF EVENT:** Suspicious Subject

**LOCATION:** Pierce School 674 N. Gold Canyon St.

**CHARGES:**  
PC 488 Petty Theft  
PC 602(m) Trespassing  
PC 32310 Possess large capacity magazine  
PC 25400(a)(1)(m) Concealed firearm in a vehicle  
PC 30605(a) Possess illegal assault weapon  
PC 626.9 Possess firearm at public school

**SUSPECTS:** Brian Coats age 30

On 12-4-17 at about 0700 hrs. Ridgecrest Police Department Officers were dispatched to the desert area south of Pierce School regarding a subject yelling. When Officers arrived at the scene, they met a subject identified as Brian Coats, age 30, who is from Louisville Kentucky. During the investigation it was found that Coats possessed a concealed pistol, AK47 rifle, and Bushmaster rifle in his vehicle. Also located in the vehicle were numerous large capacity magazines for both rifles some of which were loaded. Surveillance video at Pierce School shows Coats pulling his vehicle up to the front of the school and taking landscaping rocks. Coats then entered the school using an axe to pry open the gate. Once inside the school Coats took a small desk, table, and trash can. Coats then climbed on top of the school library. Coats was also seen running in front of classrooms and at one point a hand gun fell off his person onto the sidewalk which he retrieved. This was the handgun found in his vehicle. Coats was booked and transported to CRF Bakersfield where he was held.

**RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police. Prepared by: Sgt. Ron Bell**