



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

For immediate release  
Contact: Gilbert Gallegos  
2/04/04  
505.476.2217

### **State Library is evacuated after discovery of suspicious package**

SANTA FE - The State Library was evacuated today following the discovery of a suspicious package with a white power inside. The New Mexico State Police is investigating the substance.

Governor Bill Richardson was notified about the situation today at 11:15 a.m., and the emergency action response plan was set into motion. The State Police and the General Services Division immediately evacuated the building and secured the area.

The suspicious substance was found inside a mail container. State Police then secured the substance and placed it in a sealed, airtight container to prevent accidental exposure. It was contained and taken to the New Mexico Scientific Laboratory, a division of the state Department of Health. Initial tests, although not conclusive, indicated the substance did not appear to be harmful. More conclusive test results are expected later tonight. Final results may not be available until Thursday.

The State Library will remain closed until the results of the tests are conclusive and the area is determined safe.

The Santa Fe Fire Department's HAZMAT Team attended to an employee of the State Library who had come in contact with the substance was isolated. Emergency officials determined the employee was not injured.

The Governor's Homeland Security Advisor Annette Sobel and Secretary of Public Safety John Denko kept the Governor briefed on the situation throughout the day, and coordinated with relevant local, state and federal agencies.

The Governor has worked closely with Sobel and Denko to make sure the state has a plan in place to deal with an incident like this.

"Considering the security scare in the U.S. Capitol, we must be prepared for any emergency," Governor Bill Richardson. "I'm pleased to see that our emergency response plan worked as envisioned."

Secretary Denko said he expects to find out tonight the nature of the substance that was found.

"The State Police did a professional job, and responded to this incident in an orderly fashion," Denko said.

#30#