

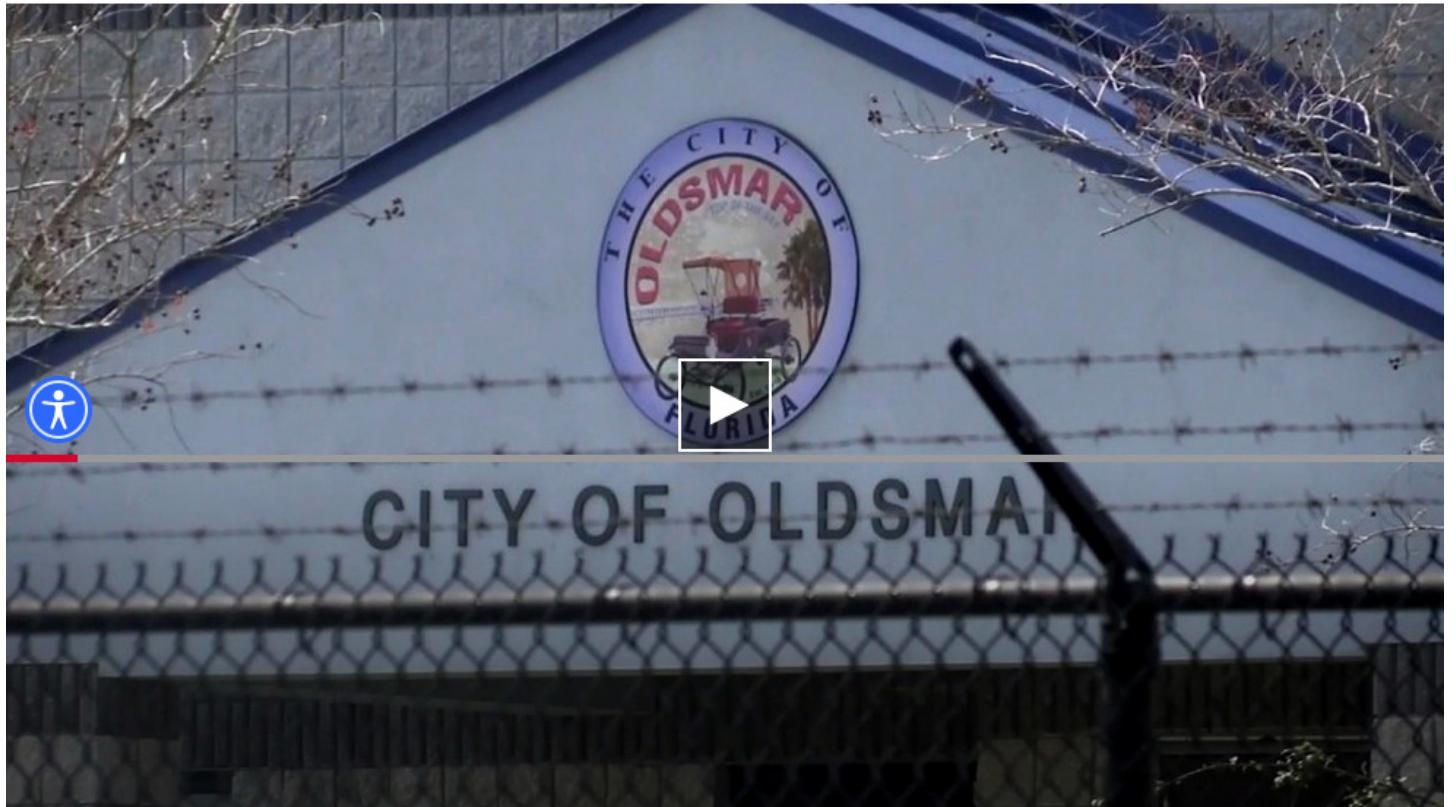
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## Hackers attempt to poison Florida city's water supply near Super Bowl

by Kara Duffy | Tuesday, February 9th 2021

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Hackers attempted to poison the water at the water treatment plant located in the Tampa Bay city of Oldsmar, about 30 miles from Raymond James Stadium where Super Bowl LV was being hosted this weekend. (WPEC)



OLDSMAR, Fla. (CBS12) — An investigation is now underway after authorities say a person or people tried to poison a Florida city's water supply.

Bob Gualtieri, the Pinellas County Sheriff, said the hacker gained control of the operating system at the city water treatment facility and had attempted to increase the amount of sodium hydroxide in the water from 100 parts per million to 11,100 parts per million.

**Pinellas SO**   
@SheriffPinellas

On Monday, February 8, 2021, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri held a press conference to address the unlawful intrusion to the City of Oldsmar's water treatment plant system. Please refer to the YouTube link below to see the press conference.



"This is obviously a significant and potentially dangerous increase," Sheriff Gualtieri said. "Sodium hydroxide, also known as lye, is the main ingredient in liquid drain cleaners. It is used to control water acidity and remove metals from drinking water in water treatment plants."

The water treatment plant is located in the Tampa Bay city of Oldsmar, about 30 miles from Raymond James Stadium where Super Bowl LV was being hosted this weekend.

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Officials say the hack took place Friday.


One of the plant operators immediately noticed the increase in lye and contacted authorities.

Fortunately, the water never made it to the home of residents.

The FBI and Secret Service agents are now helping local investigators track down the person or people responsible.

They're also trying to determine if the cyber attack was done by someone in the United States or someone overseas.

This is a developing story. CBS12 News will bring you updates as they become available.






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