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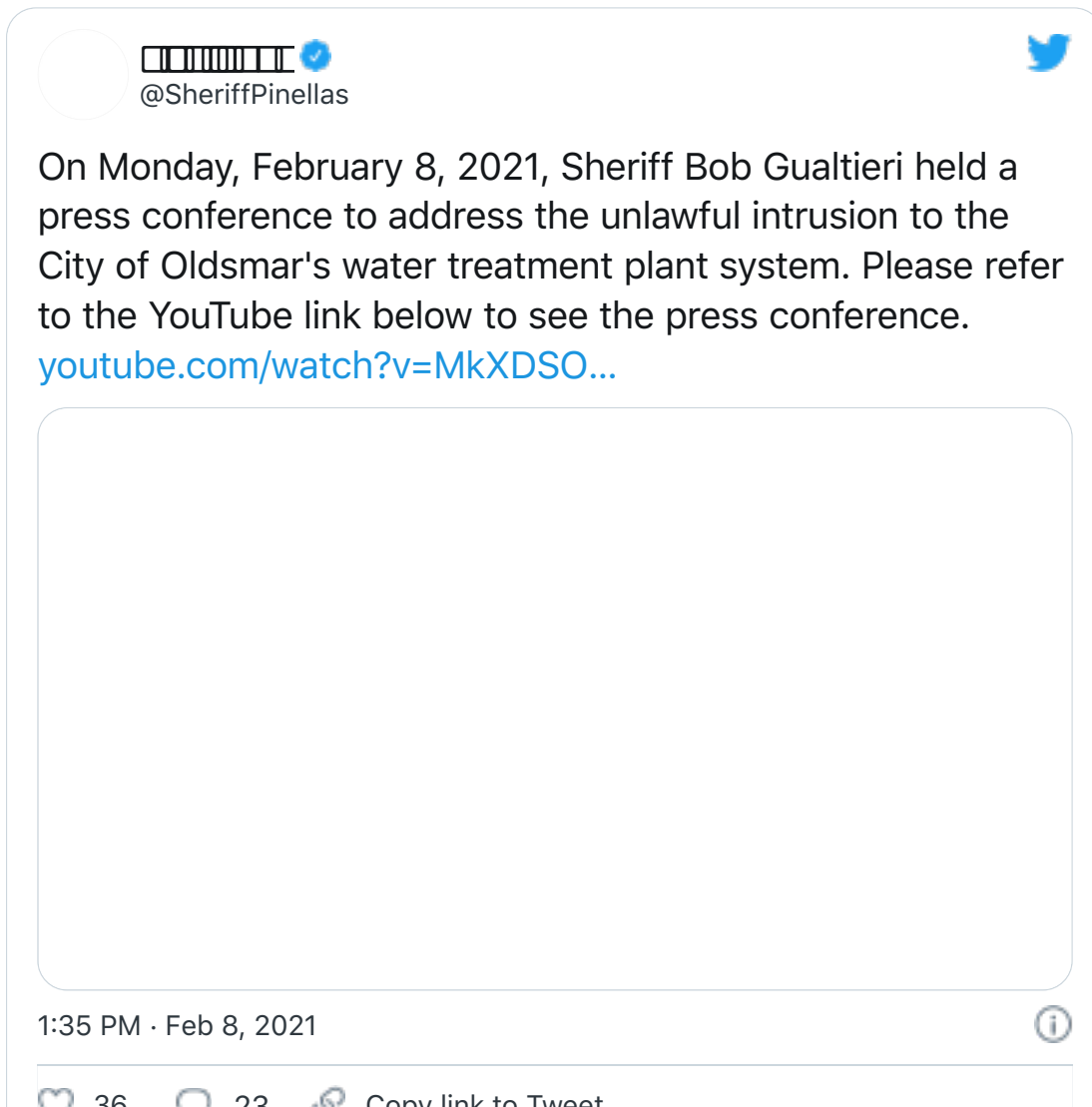
# Hackers attempt to poison Florida city's water supply near Super Bowl

by Kara Duffy  
Tuesday, February 9th 2021



*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.



A screenshot of a Twitter post from the account @SheriffPinellas. The profile picture is a circular icon with a grid pattern. The text of the tweet reads: "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. [youtube.com/watch?v=MkXDSO...](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkXDSO...)" Below the text is a large empty rectangular box. At the bottom of the tweet, it shows the time "1:35 PM · Feb 8, 2021" and an information icon. Below the tweet, there are icons for replies (36), retweets (23), and a "Copy link to Tweet" button.

"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 ' and James Stadium where Super Bowl LV was being hosted this weekend.



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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