



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:
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Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010

Deputies injured during K-9 track; multiple suspects arrested in connection with burglary

Port Orchard, Wash. -- A Kitsap County Sheriff's deputy was transported to Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton and treated for a serious, but non-life threatening, injury sustained early this morning while searching an unoccupied residence in the Southworth area of South Kitsap.

The deputy is a sheriff's K-9 handler. The injury occurred as a K-9 search team was descending a set of interior stairs after clearing the second floor of the vacant house. The stairs collapsed dropping the team to the first floor.

The K-9 handler has since been released from the hospital. A second deputy in the search team also was treated and released from Harrison Medical Center.

The sheriff's K-9 was examined by emergency veterinary staff at VCA Central Kitsap Animal Hospital, cleared for duty and released.

The K-9 track and building search was being conducted following a burglary to the Southworth Grocery, located at 3985 Cherry Street SE, near the Washington State Ferries terminal in Southworth.

Five persons have been taken into custody, either directly or indirectly related to the burglary.

Sequence:

Sheriff's patrol deputies responded following a 9-1-1 broadcast of a burglary alarm at the neighborhood market, arriving at 1:33 a.m. Deputies observed that the glass to the store's front door was completely broken out.

With the assistance of Sheriff's K-9 Ryker the store was searched and cleared of anyone inside. An area K-9 track for the suspects was started at 1:45 a.m. The track led north on Cherry Street SE. Deputies noted unopened packets of cigarettes lying in the roadway.

The track led to an unoccupied residential structure in the 3800 block of Cherry Street. The house was undergoing renovations and was unlocked, with numerous openings that allowed easy access to the interior.

At 1:55 a.m., while clearing the unoccupied house, the stairway collapsed. The nature of the injuries sustained by the two deputies precluded them from continuing the K-9 track. South Kitsap Fire & Rescue medic units responded to assist and render first aid. The sheriff's K-9 handler was transported by medic unit to Harrison Medical Center. He has since been released from the hospital.

While the injured deputies were being treated by medics, an employee of the store arrived on scene. Deputies were then able to view the store's security surveillance system.

The surveillance images depicted three male 'teens approach the front of the store. One of the suspects was seen throwing a rock through the front door glass. This suspect entered the store through the broken glass, jumped the counter, and scooped up a handful of cigarette packets. This same suspect also grabbed a case of beer from a cooler and left the store, running north on Cherry Street.

The surveillance images provided deputies with good physical descriptions of the three 'teens.

Sheriff's deputies who were assisting with containment of the area stopped a 1978 Chevrolet pick-up truck in the vicinity of Olympiad Drive SE and SE Bean Road, around 2:00 a.m. The 20 year-old male driver was taken into custody on an outstanding warrant of arrest. It was soon learned that this person had driven to the scene to pick-up one of the burglary suspects when stopped by deputies.

At 2:29 a.m. the K-9 track was resumed using Sheriff's K-9 Ajax. The track led north again on Cherry Street and subsequently onto Olympiad Drive. The tracking team located two of the suspects, ages 16 and 17, hiding in woods behind a residence on Olympiad Drive. They were taken into custody at 3:26 a.m. and transported back to the store.

Meanwhile, a Washington State Patrol trooper had initiated a traffic stop, at 2:42 a.m., of a 1996 Ford Taurus in the 8000 block of SE Sedgwick Road. The 17 year-old driver was arrested by the trooper for suspicion of driving under the influence of alcoholic intoxicants.

The trooper also suspected that a 16 year-old male passenger in the vehicle matched the (broadcast) description of one of the suspects from the Southworth burglary. A deputy responded to the traffic stop and noted evidence of involvement in the incident on the passenger, including the color and style of his soiled clothing, shoe tread pattern from footprints at the scene and lacerations on his fingers from broken glass. The passenger was taken into custody by the deputy.

Aftermath:

The five persons arrested in connection with this burglary were booked as follows:

- (1) Twenty year-old driver of the 1978 Chevrolet truck, from South Kitsap, was booked into jail on an outstanding warrant of arrest for rape of a child, 3rd degree. Bail: \$75,000. He had driven to the area of the crime to pick-up one of the burglary suspects.
- (2) Seventeen year-old driver of the 1996 Ford Taurus, a South Kitsap resident, was arrested by Washington State Patrol for suspicion of driving under the influence of alcoholic intoxicants. His passenger was one of the 'teen suspects in the burglary.
- (3) Sixteen year-old male suspect, also from South Kitsap, was arrested during a K-9 track and booked into juvenile detention for burglary, 2nd degree. Bail: \$10,000.
- (4) Seventeen year-old male suspect, a South Kitsap resident, was arrested during a K-9 track. He was transported to Harrison Medical Center for examination of a K-9 bite. He was cleared and subsequently booked into juvenile detention for burglary, 2nd degree. Bail: \$10,000.
- (5) Sixteen year-old male suspect, from South Kitsap as well, was the passenger in the Ford Taurus stopped by a state patrol trooper. He was arrested and booked into juvenile detention for burglary, 2nd degree. Bail: \$10,000.

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