



Kitsap County Sheriff's Office



Bainbridge Island Police Department

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Officer involved shooting

Officers confront man armed with edged weapon

Bainbridge Island, Wash. -- A late evening radio dispatch for assistance with an unknown problem turned deadly last night, when responding Bainbridge Island police officers were placed into a situation where lethal force was used during a confrontation with a man who was armed with an axe.

The suspect, a resident of the property, was mortally wounded when shots were fired during the course of an assault on the two officers.

Neither of the officers was injured.

Kitsap County Sheriff's Office detectives have assumed duties as the primary investigative agency.

The assault occurred around 8:59 p.m. in the 7700 block of Springridge Road NE on Bainbridge Island.

The investigation is in its early stages but a preliminary analysis indicates that the two Bainbridge Island police officers were dispatched at 8:41 p.m. to an unknown problem at the above address.

A male caller, believed to be the suspect, telephoned Kitsap County Central Communications (9-1-1) and began yelling, repeatedly, at a 9-1-1 call receiver. The subject's voice was loud; he wouldn't answer questions asked of him about his emergency and eventually he disconnected. CenCom operators were unsuccessful in re-establishing telephone contact with the man.

The Bainbridge Island officers arrived on scene at 8:54 p.m.

Almost immediately the officers were confronted by a very angry and aggressive man on the driveway in close proximity to an open, two storey garage building. The officers attempted to calm down the man and de-escalate the situation so they could determine the nature of the emergency. Instead, the suspect charged at the officers.

A Taser was deployed but it had no apparent effect on the man. The suspect retreated into the garage, armed himself with a double-bladed axe and again confronted the officers and charged at them with the axe. Gunshots were fired at the man to stop the attack. The man then retreated to a second floor studio apartment over the garage.

The Bainbridge Island officers radioed that shots had been fired and requested immediate help. Additional assistance was soon provided by deputies and officers from several county law enforcement agencies, the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office SWAT team and by firefighters and medics from Bainbridge Island Fire Department.

When attempts at contacting the suspect inside the apartment failed, a tactical entry team was deployed shortly after 10:00 p.m.

The entry team found the suspect on the floor inside the apartment, deceased. No other persons were in the apartment. Other family members were inside the main residential home on the property. They were not harmed.

The Kitsap County Coroner has confirmed the identity of the man as: Douglas M. Ostling, age 43. His family has been notified.

An autopsy on the suspect was completed this morning. The coroner will make a determination as to the cause and manner of death. Toxicology tests will likely take several weeks before all laboratory work is completed and the results made available.

During a brief news conference this morning, Bainbridge Island Police Chief Jon Fehlman identified the two Bainbridge officers involved in the incident as: Officer Jeff Benkert and Officer Dave Portrey.

Officer Benkert has more than eight years of law enforcement service: three years with Bainbridge Island police and more than five years as an officer with Los Angeles Police Department.

Officer Portrey has 16 years service with Bainbridge Island.

In accordance with standard procedures, both officers have been placed on administrative assignment pending completion of the shooting investigation and an administrative review of the incident.

The investigation continues. Additional information concerning this incident may be made available publicly at the discretion of the sheriff.

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