

SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: October 16, 2016

LOCATION: Chace and Getchell Streets

TOPIC: Officer Involved Shooting

CASE NUMBER: 16S-08694

INFORMATION:

On October 16, 2016 at approximately 3:30 am, Santa Cruz Police Officers were involved in a violent confrontation that resulted in the use of lethal force. The suspect was pronounced deceased at the scene by emergency medical crews.

The incident started at approximately 3:30 a.m. when Santa Cruz Police responded to a call of a disturbance at a home in the 200 block of Chace Street. The caller described a man "pounding" on his front door. While officers were in route, the reporting party called 9-1-1 a second time stating the subject was now at the back door of the residence and yelling that he wanted to kill everyone inside.

When officers arrived, they located the subject in the backyard of the home. Officers called him out of the backyard. In the course of attempting to take the subject into custody, he attacked the officers with a metal bow rake.

As the suspect continued to attack, he refused all repeated commands from the officers to drop the weapon. Officers deployed Tasers which were not effective in stopping the suspect. The Tasers failed to stop the attack. As the suspect continued to attack with the metal bow rake, lethal force was deployed. One of the officers fired at the suspect with their department issued handgun. Officers rendered first aid to the suspect until the arrival of emergency medical crews.

The 32 year-old suspect's identity is not being released at this point.

The county-wide Critical Incident Protocol was enacted with management from the Santa Cruz Police Department, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office. Per protocol, the decision was made that the District Attorney's Office will serve as the lead investigative agency. This protocol ensures an independent investigation.

The Santa Cruz Police Department will also conduct a separate administrative investigation. Per our policy, the officers involved are placed on administrative leave during the investigation. More details about this case will follow as information becomes available.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact the Santa Cruz Police Department at 831-420-5820.

For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke

Phone: (831) 420-5844

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; www.santacruzpolice.com . Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: October 17, 2016

LOCATION: Chace and Getchell Streets

TOPIC: Update #1 Officer Involved Shooting - 10/16/16 **CASE NUMBER:** 16S-08694

INFORMATION:

The Santa Cruz Police Department is updating details on the circumstances involved with the shooting in the early morning hours of October 16, 2016. As a reminder, the investigation is a continuing work in progress. The police department will release details as they become available.

The deceased suspect has been identified as 32 year old Santa Cruz resident Sean Arlt. Mr. Arlt's family has been notified and the police department has provided support to the family through our full time Victim Advocate.

Early Sunday morning (3:30 AM) on October 16, 2016, Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1 received an emergency call from a male resident at the Chace Street home. The caller reported that ***"someone is trying to break into my house"***. The caller further indicated that he knew the suspect and stated he was pounding on the front door of the home. The caller emphasized to the dispatcher, ***"I want someone here in a hurry"*** and further told the dispatcher, ***"everyone's scared"***. The dispatcher took the information and the call ended.

As police officers were responding, the caller contacted our dispatch center a second time. The caller stated, ***"Where are you? There's someone at my door screaming about killing us"***. The caller also expressed concern for a female tenant living in the detached garage of the home. The caller reiterated Mr. Arlt's threats to kill the occupants. The caller then hung up on the dispatcher. We later learned that the caller had armed himself with a large frying pan to defend himself and his family should Mr. Arlt get into the home.

In all, 4 SCPD officers were dispatched to the call. As SCPD officers arrived, they saw Mr. Arlt near the back door of the home which is accessed from Getchell Street. Mr. Arlt was in a small yard area between the back door and a fence.

The Officers called out to Mr. Arlt and ordered him out of the backyard. Mr. Arlt did not respond to their attempts to communicate with him. Meanwhile, Mr. Arlt armed himself with a wood handled metal bow rake, and emerged from the backyard holding the rake. The officers immediately ordered Mr. Arlt to drop the rake.

Mr. Arlt ignored the officers' repeated commands and walked rapidly toward them holding the rake in a threatening manner over his head as if he was preparing to swing it. Officers repeatedly ordered Mr. Arlt to drop the rake. One of the officers had an audio recorder capturing the confrontation. In the recording, Officers can be heard ordering Mr. Arlt to drop the rake no less than 8 times. Mr. Arlt continued toward the officers. Officers can also be heard ordering Mr. Arlt to "stop" a number of times as he continued toward them while still holding the rake over his head.

The officers retreated back from Mr. Arlt as he continued toward them. At this point, 2 separate officers deployed Tasers at Mr. Arlt in an effort to stop his attack. The Taser deployments were not effective and they did not stop Mr. Arlt's advance. One of the officers deployed a second Taser round which was also ineffective. A total of 3 Taser attempts were made to stop Mr. Arlt's attack.

Simultaneously, officers continued to retreat until they were backed against parked cars. Mr. Arlt continued toward the officers with the rake held up in the previously described threatening manner. Mr. Arlt got within approximately 10 feet of the officers when lethal force was deployed.

A single officer fired two shots to stop the attack of Mr. Arlt. No other shots were fired. The officers immediately provided Mr. Arlt with medical aid. Mr. Arlt continued to fight with the officers as they attempted to render aid to him. The officers provided medical aid to Mr. Arlt until emergency medical crews arrived.

Two of the responding officers are part of the department's Crisis Negotiation Team specially trained in de-escalation and addressing persons in crisis. In spite of the officers' attempts to communicate with Mr. Arlt, his behavior was erratic and he was not responsive.

Based on the audio recording, once Mr. Arlt emerged from the backyard, this situation unfolded in approximately 20 seconds. Because of the rapid succession of events, the officers did not have the opportunity to dialogue and negotiate with Mr. Arlt.

In addition to the officer's statements and audio recording, there was a civilian student ride along accompanying one of the officers. In his interview, the student ride along gave an account that is consistent with the statement of the involved officers.

The rake used by Mr. Arlt was approximately 5 feet in length with a metal head containing 14 metal tines. A photo of the actual rake is attached to this media release.

For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke

Phone: (831) 420-5844

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; www.santacruzpolice.com . Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.

Photo #1

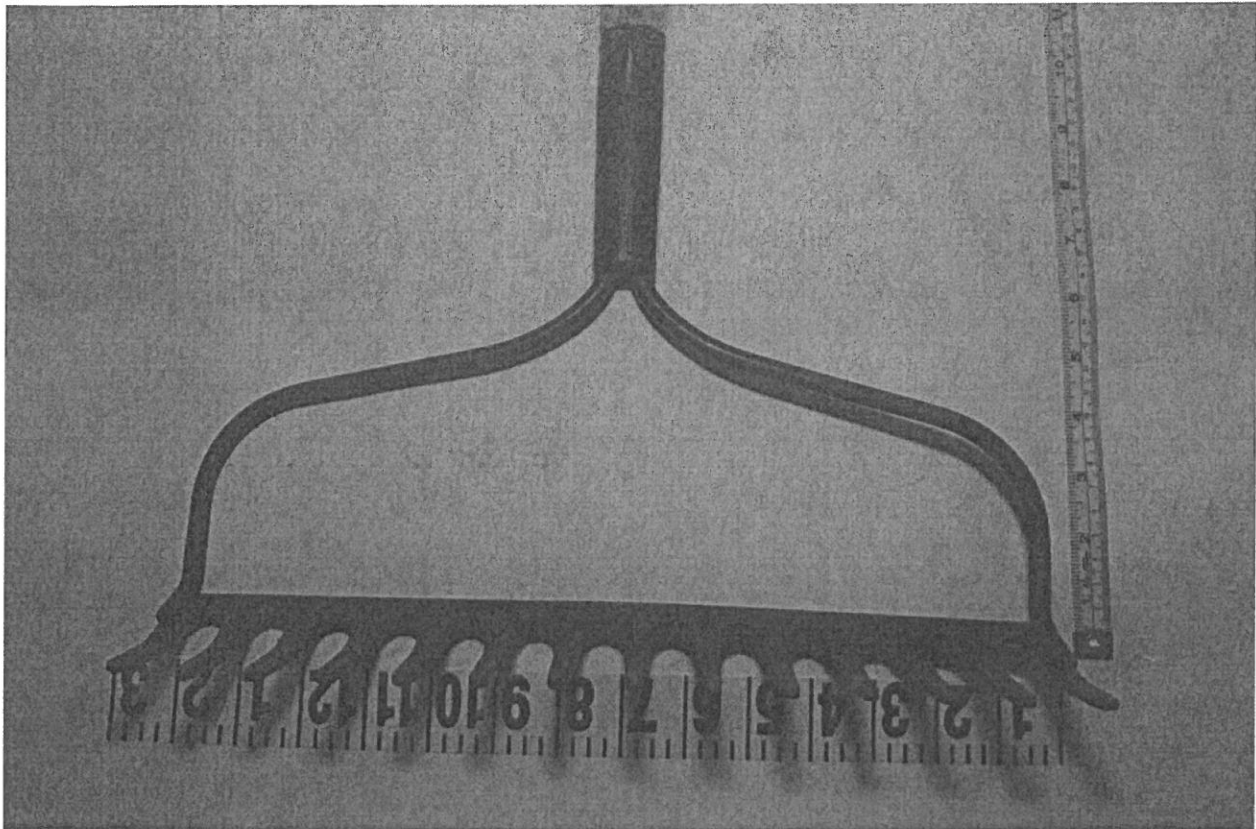
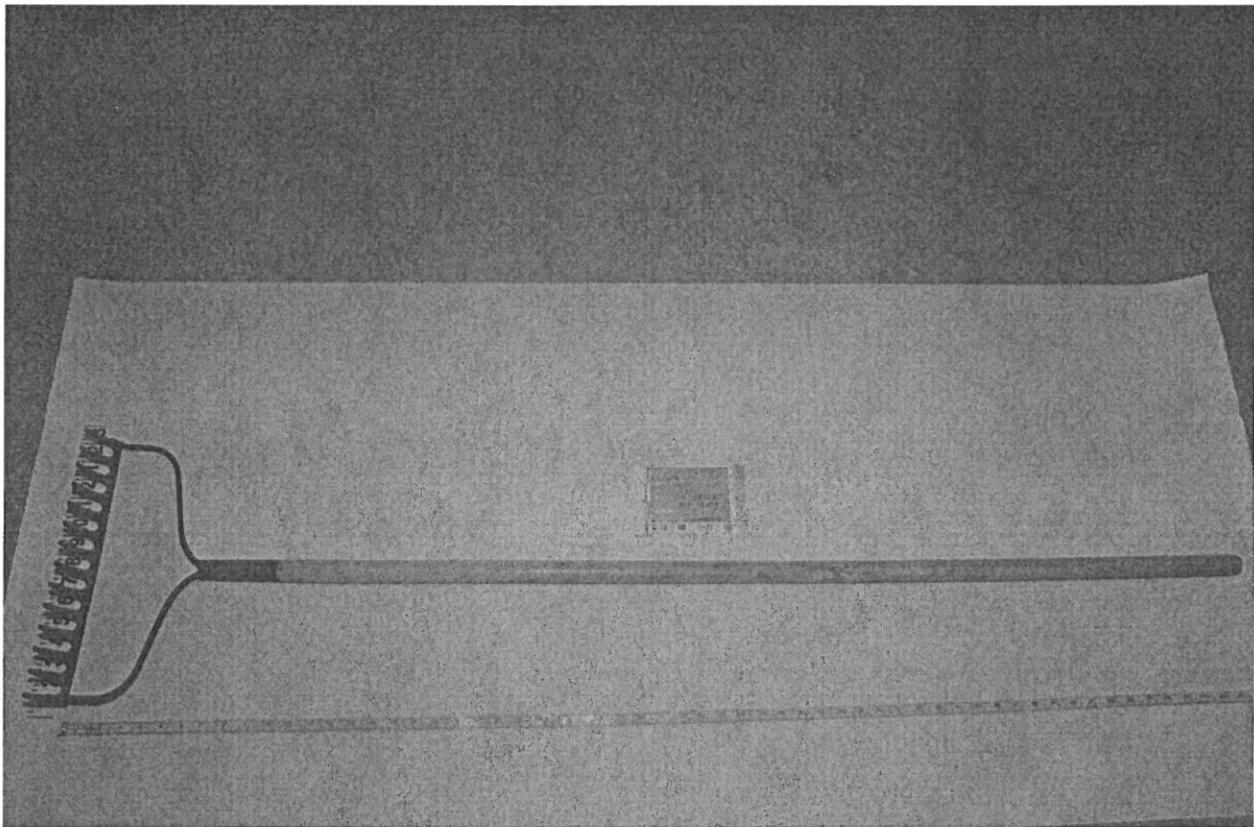
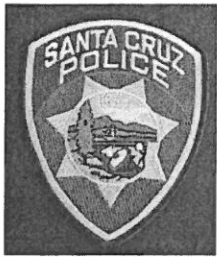


Photo #2





SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: October 19, 2016

CASE NUMBER: 16S-08694

TOPIC: Update #2 Officer Involved Shooting – Community Questions

INFORMATION:

We have heard questions and concerns from the community regarding the tragic incident of October 16, 2016, and we would like to provide some clarity on key aspects of this event.

In the early morning hours of October 16th, the majority of the nightshift was dispatched to the emergency incident at the home on Chace Street. The officers were aware that Mr. Arlt had a prior incident of crisis intervention involving our officers on October 11, 2016. During the October 11th incident, our officers attempted to detain Mr. Arlt, who became violent. He was subdued and safely taken into custody after a prolonged struggle. As a result of the October 11th incident, Mr. Arlt was left in the care of the mental health professional to ensure his safety. The specific details of this incident are being withheld out of respect and consideration to the family at this time.

Each of the officers that responded to the emergency call on October 16th had all completed training in the last year on the Santa Cruz County mental Health protocol. Additionally, those officers had completed training on crisis communication and de-escalation tactics. Those very tactics were deployed during the October 16th incident and had no effect on Mr. Arlt, as he was unresponsive and uncooperative with the verbal commands. Mr. Arlt was also not affected by three separate Taser deployments. Despite these less lethal interventions, Mr. Arlt continued toward the officers raising the metal bow rake over his head in a swinging position, until lethal force was used to stop Mr. Arlt's advancing attack. This incident unfolded in the span of only 20 seconds.

In relation to the Santa Cruz Police Department's training for mental health interventions, we exceed State standards for in-service officer training by training in excess of 80 hours annually. Over the past 12 months, all officers received 3 separate trainings specifically related to crisis communications and mental health. The department's training is overseen by a civilian with 38 years of education experience, including serving as the Deputy Superintendent for the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. The training schedule is attached to this release.

Immediately following this incident, the Santa Cruz Police management convened with the District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office. The Santa Cruz Police Department requested the shooting be investigated by the District Attorney's Office to ensure a thorough and independent investigation into the use of force. At the conclusion of the investigation, the District Attorney's Office will issue their legal finding on the use of force. Also, in conjunction with the independent criminal investigation, an internal administrative investigation will be completed. Upon completion of the internal investigation, the City's Independent Police Auditor will review the incident followed with a review by the City Council Public Safety Sub-Committee.

Requests have been made for the audio and video evidence from the incident on October 16th. Any of this evidence could be released by the District Attorney's Office at the conclusion of their investigation.

For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke

Phone: (831) 420-5844

2015-2016 Training Year Schedule

October- All County Training (5150 protocol, Coroner's Cases, Crime Lab Update)

7th- Investigations, Parks, Net

14th- A-Team

21st- B-Team

28th- ESU Training

This training was an all-county training hosted at the Sheriff's Office. The training was conducted by County Mental Health and the SCSO Crime Lab. The Mental Health portion covered state law mandates and county protocols regarding the evaluation and 72 hour placement of persons in mental health related crisis.

November- (Cultural Diversity, Firearms, Taser)

4th- ESU Training

11th- A-team

18th- B-team

25th- Overlap Day, B-team has the field

Cultural Diversity training taught by recognized and certified instructors from the South Bay Regional Training Consortium. Two hours of Basic handgun training and a two hour Taser update which included some scenario based discussions was also taught.

December- Driver Training PSP, ACT PSP

2nd- ESU Training

9th- A-team

16th- B-team

23rd- Overlap Day, A-team has the field

30th- Overlap Day, B-team has the field

Training fulfilled state POST mandated training requirements for defensive driving and arrest and control. Arrest and control includes hands on training regarding officer self-defense, searching techniques, and ways in which to establish and maintain control of a combative individual both as a single officer and with a partner.

January- (Domestic Violence PSP, Tactical Communications PSP, CPR)

6th- ESU

13th- A-team

20th- B-team

27th- Overlap Day, A-team has the field

State requirements only require two hours of training each for both domestic violence and tactical communication. Tactical Communication was taught for 4 hours instead of the mandated two. This training focused on de-escalation techniques and communication skills necessary in dealing with people in mental health crisis, who are suicidal, or are highly emotional at an event. This course was taught by an expert recognized by the South Bay Regional Training Consortium. The CPR training was taught by outside expert and fulfilled American Red Cross requirements.

February- (OC/Chemical Agents/Baton/Taser)

3rd- ESU

10th- A-team

17th- B-team

24th- ESU

The course focused on the legal requirements, effects, first aid, and decontamination requirements when using pepper spray or chemical agents (such as tear gas). The use of less lethal tools such as the baton and the Taser were taught with some scenario based learning and hands on practical applications.

March- (Use of Force Scenarios @ CDF)

2nd- ESU

9th- A-team

16th- B-team

23rd- Overlap Day, B-team has the field

30th- ESU (Joint training with HNT)

Training hosted by department instructors. Officers completed six scenarios which focused on armed confrontations, use of force situations where deadly force was not an option, subjects in mental health crisis or wanting to commit suicide by cop, and focused on tactical decision making, planning, and applications of the appropriate type of force to be used.

April- (State Mandated 16 hour firearms course)

6th- ESU

13th- A-team

20th- A-team

27th- Overlap Day, A-team has field

This training day fulfilled a legislative mandate regarding firearms training and use.

May- (State Mandated 16 hour firearms course)

4th- ESU

11th- B-team

18- B-team

21st- Major shift change

This training day fulfilled a legislative mandate regarding firearms training and use.

June- (State Mandated 16 hour firearms course)

16th- Investigations, Parks, Net

17th- Investigations, Parks, Net