



County of Santa Cruz

Sheriff-Coroner

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Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Public Information Release Deputies Involved in Shooting of Armed Suspect

On July 9th, 2015 at 1033 pm, Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to family dispute in the 15000 block of Fern Road, in Boulder Creek CA. The grandparents of a 17 year old young man had called 911 after their grandson had destroyed furniture and broke windows with a club inside the home. He had also beaten his 70 year old grandfather with the club across the back and chest.

When Sheriff's deputies initially arrived, they were met by the grandparents at the end of the driveway. The grandparents warned the deputies that the 17 year old was out of control and had just killed a family pet and he had access to several guns. Deputies staged the fire department and ambulance service nearby. They set up a perimeter and started a Sheriff's Office negotiator in an attempt to begin a dialogue with the 17 year old.

Deputies could see and hear the approximate 6-00, 220 pound 17 year old through the windows of the home still breaking things inside with the club. The 17 year old stepped outside briefly holding the club and then retreated back inside the home. Through the windows, deputies saw the 17 year old pick up a rifle and shotgun. Deputies lost sight of him for several seconds and when he re-emerged from the house; the 17 year old was holding just the rifle pointed up. At 11:16 pm the 17 year old lowered the rifle and pointed it directly at a deputy and was fatally shot by two deputies. He was struck three times in the torso and once in the hand. First aid was immediately rendered by the deputies until an ambulance arrived on scene at 11:21 pm and took over life saving efforts. The 17 year old was conscious and talking at the scene until transported via ambulance to Scotts Valley where he was flown out to a Regional Trauma Center.

On July 10th 2015 at 4:22 AM, the 17 year old died from his injuries on the operating table. The deputy's names are being withheld and are both highly respected members of the sheriff's office. They were not injured during the incident. One of the deputies has been employed with the Sheriff's office for six years and the other deputy has worked for two years. They are on routine administrative leave pending the conclusion of the investigation.

Sheriff Jim Hart stated "This is a tragic case for everybody involved and my thoughts and prayers go out to the young man's family, as well as our deputy sheriff's involved with this case."

Press Release Prepared by: Lieutenant Kelly Kent

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