



OFFICE OF  
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# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For Immediate Release:

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KCSO Press Release #04-007/125

## Unexpected death following deputies' response to disturbance call

**Silverdale, Wash.** – Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies, responding to a report of a disturbance in a Central Kitsap apartment complex, encountered a person acting irrationally. The incident turned confrontational. Once under control, the person began to experience breathing difficulties. A medical unit arrived and administered lifesaving support. The individual was transported to the hospital where he later died. No law enforcement personnel were injured.

**Location:** 11000 block of Shippside Lane, NW, Silverdale (Ridgetop Apartment complex)

**Time & date:** Between 12:00 and 1:00 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, 2004

### Involved:

Deceased: Adult male, age 44, Silverdale resident.

Law enforcement: One patrol deputy, initially, followed by a second patrol deputy and a sergeant supervisor as back-up units.

**Circumstances:** A complaint call was received by Kitsap County Central Communications (911 dispatch) at midnight, concerning an intoxicated subject in an apartment complex acting in an irrational and aggressive manner. According to the call, a partially dressed male was beating on several apartment doors within the complex trying to force himself inside. The male had been heard and observed running up and down stairways and breaking light fixtures in the stairwells and stair landings.

**Response:** The initial responding deputy arrived on-scene at 12:15 a.m. and encountered the male in a ground floor stairwell area of one of the apartment buildings. The deputy observed blood on the subject's face and immediately radioed for back-up assistance and for an emergency medical service (EMS) unit to respond. Although the outside air temperature was cold, approaching the freezing point, the subject was attired only in a pair of blue jeans. He was barefoot and without any other outerwear.

From his appearance, demeanor and actions, the male appeared to be acting under the influence of some type of alcohol intoxicant, narcotics or other unknown substance.

The situation turned confrontational when the person became aggressive towards the deputy and refused to comply with verbal instructions. The deputy deployed an air taser and hands-on control techniques to try and gain control of the subject.

Sheriff's back-up units arrived at 12:21 a.m. to find the first deputy engaged in a fight with the person on the ground in the stairwell. All three officers struggled with the man for approximately 90 seconds until he was finally secured in handcuffs, although he continued to resist after being placed into restraints.

Shortly afterwards the deputies noticed that the man appeared to be experiencing difficulty in breathing. The man was rolled onto his side and released from the restraints. An EMS unit from Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue arrived on-scene within seconds and began resuscitation efforts, as the subject had stopped breathing altogether.

Once stabilized enough for transport, the man was taken by ambulance to Harrison Memorial Hospital, Bremerton, arriving there at 12:55 a.m. The Sheriff's Office was notified that the subject later died in the emergency room.

**Action:** The incident scene has been secured. Sheriff's detectives have initiated an investigation into the circumstances involved in the man's actions. The Kitsap County Coroner will conduct a concurrent investigation to determine the cause of the man's death. An autopsy, to include toxicology tests, will be conducted today by a forensic pathologist in conjunction with the investigation. Release of the man's identity is under the jurisdiction of the Coroner's Office and is being withheld pending notification of family members.

The deputies involved remain in a duty status. They have been offered the opportunity to take administrative leave (paid), but are not required to do so.

"I am aware of the circumstances surrounding this incident and of the initial, preliminary investigation so far," said Sheriff Steve Boyer. "This situation is yet another indication of the importance of adequate training. The deputies involved followed correct procedures. They followed-through, despite the actions of an aggressive person apparently under the influence, and they prevailed. I'm very relieved, given the circumstances, that none of the deputies were injured."

**- KCSO -**