

Press-Enterprise, The (Riverside, CA)

January 8, 2008

Edition: RIVERSIDE; MORENO VALLEY; SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY; PASS ;
CORONA-NORCO; HEMET NEWS

Section: LOCAL

Page: B02b

Man wielding shotgun during standoff killed by police // MORENO VALLEY: A threat of suicide leads to a pursuit through neighbors' yards.

Author: JOHN ASBURY; THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Article Text:

Moreno Valley police shot and killed a man early Monday morning who they said refused to drop a shotgun during a standoff.

Coroner's officials identified the man as Steven Ray Williams, 53, of Moreno Valley. Court records show he has no criminal record in Riverside or San Bernardino counties. Police blocked off access to Williams' home for most of the day Monday.

Police were called about 4:30 a.m. in response to a suicide threat on Bridle Trail Road near Eucalyptus Avenue in the Sunnymead district of the city, Riverside County sheriff's Deputy Craig Roberts said.

Police arriving at the home saw Williams carrying a shotgun while walking away. Police ordered him to drop his gun, Roberts said.

Williams ignored the command and reached nearby Shiray Ranch Road, where he ducked into the backyards of homes, Roberts said. Police confronted him again in a backyard and told him to drop the weapon a second time.

When he refused, four Moreno Valley police officers fired, killing Williams at the scene, Roberts said. It does not appear that he fired his shotgun at police, Roberts said.

The four police officers will be placed on paid administrative leave as part of department policy, according to the Sheriff's Department policy, Roberts said. The department instructs officers to fire if they feel their life or the life of another person is threatened, sheriff's Investigator Jerry Franchville said. During the confrontation police at the scene put out a radio call of an officer in an emergency in need of immediate backup, Franchville said.

Police tape crisscrossed the neighborhood Monday morning while dozens of detectives canvassed the street and neighboring homes. The home where Williams was shot is adjacent to the Moreno Valley Senior Community Center and a senior housing division.

Neighbors said they were unaware of the confrontation until after they heard gunshots and awoke to police knocking on their doors Monday morning.

Reach John Asbury at 951-368-9288 or jasbury@PE.com

Caption:

MARK ZALESKI/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE / Riverside County Sheriff and Moreno Valley police officers investigate a fatal shooting on Shiray Ranch Road on Monday. Moreno Valley police shot and killed a man early Monday morning who they said refused to drop a shotgun during a standoff.

PHOTO