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Man calls 911, dies in custody
29-year-old said he was overdosing
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ONTARIO - A man died in police custody early Wednesday morning after he called 911 and told dispatchers he was overdosing on methamphetamine and was going to die, Ontario police and San Bernardino County coroner's officials said.

Jesse Martinez, 29, was pronounced dead about an hour after he was handcuffed and restrained by as many as four Ontario police officers near his Mountain Avenue condominium about 12:30 a.m., Ontario police spokesman Cpl. David McBride said.

Officers used no weapons to restrain Martinez, who was originally found by responding firefighters in the middle of the street in the 2000 block of South Mountain, yelling and screaming, McBride said.

Firefighters and officers responded to a 911 call in which Martinez told dispatchers he had overdosed and was going to die before dropping the telephone. Dispatchers could hear the man screaming in the background. Officers responding to the call found him in a similar frame of mind, McBride said.

"The officers told him over a bullhorn, "If you want help, sit down on the curb,"" McBride said.

"He did sit down on the curb. But when the officers handcuffed him for safety purposes, something set him off again."

Officers restrained Martinez's arms and legs in an attempt to keep him from flailing around. About 45 seconds to one and a half minutes after he sat down on the curb, officers noticed the man wasn't breathing, McBride said.

"It was kind of surprising," McBride said. "It was, "Oh gosh, this guy isn't breathing."

Martinez was then rushed by ambulance to Chino Valley Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead at 1:39 a.m., Supervising Deputy Coroner Randy Emon said.

An autopsy was scheduled for today but Emon said it was unlikely that coroner's officials would reach any conclusions about how Martinez died until results of toxicology tests come back. That could take as long as four months, Emon said.

McBride said Ontario police launched an administrative investigation into the in-custody death - the department's first since 1999 - but at the moment consider the man's death to be the result of an accidental overdose.

"The force level used was not very high," McBride said. "Some control measures were used to keep him from flailing. But there were no batons, no mace, no tasers used. No weapons at all." McBride declined to release the names of the four officers involved in this incident.

Neighbors at Martinez's condominium complex said he was survived by two young daughters, ages 3 and 5, and his wife Rachel. They added that if Martinez used methamphetamine, he hid it pretty well.

"I am shocked," said a neighbor, 25-year-old Christy Sanchez, who added that she is a

recovering meth user. "He and his wife were good parents. Our kids played together. He wasn't up at all hours, nothing that you would expect from someone who was tweaking."

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