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SWAT team standoff ends in suicide

Author: Jonathan Vit

[jvit@sjnewsco.com](mailto:jvit@sjnewsco.com)

Article Text:

WEST DEPTFORD TWP. - A township man fatally shot himself inside his Lincoln Avenue home early Tuesday morning as police, responding to an undisclosed call, stood outside.

Officers were called to the residence at 3:26 a.m. Tuesday for an undisclosed reason. As they approached the rancher, a single shot rang out, police said.

The officers pulled back and called county dispatch, who notified the Gloucester County Special Weapons and Tactics Unit and called the house. The man's wife answered the phone and fled the house.

She told officers that her husband had a .357-magnum handgun inside.

Neighboring homes along Lincoln Avenue, off Red Bank Avenue, were evacuated as the SWAT team set up a perimeter.

At 7:46 a.m., more than four hours after the gunshot was heard by officers, SWAT team members were able to see the man through a basement window.

He had died of a single, self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said. His name was not released by authorities.

The death has been ruled a suicide. An investigation into the death is still ongoing, said police.

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