



Chief Dana Wingert

Press Release

For immediate release

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30 July 2024

A Des Moines Police Department patrol officer has been shot during the investigation of a violation of a No Contact Order.

At approximately 3:32 a.m., 30 July 2024, Des Moines Police Department patrol officers responded to a residence in the 5800 block of SE 35th Circle to investigate a report of a person violating a protective order.

At approximately 3:53 a.m., responding officers saw the suspects vehicle driving near the scene and attempted to stop it. The suspect fled from the officers, beginning a pursuit.

At approximately 3:58 a.m., as the suspect fled westbound on E. Army Post Rd., his vehicle left the roadway to the south and came to a stop. Seconds later, officers reported that shots had been fired and an officer was shot.

The officer, a 37-year-old male with four years of service with the Des Moines Police Department, was critically injured by a gunshot wound to the chest. He was transported by Des Moines Fire Department medics to a local hospital, where medical treatment is ongoing.

The suspect was shot by officers and died at the scene.

Des Moines Police Department detectives and agents with the Iowa Department of Public Safety Division of Criminal Investigation are investigating this incident. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available for release.

UPDATE: 11:00 a.m., 30 July 2023

The officer injured in this incident is listed in serious / stable condition, and continues to recover at a local hospital. The second officer involved is a 23-year-old male with 10 months of service with the Des Moines Police Department.

The preliminary examination of available evidence indicates that as the pursuit continued in the rain, westbound on E. Army Post Road, the 45-year-old male suspect, appeared to lose control and left the roadway, crashing the vehicle and disabling it.

As the suspect ran from the vehicle, through the dense overgrowth of small trees, bushes, and underbrush, two officers ran after him. Body worn camera video recording clearly shows that as the officers got closer to the suspect, he turned towards them and produced a handgun. The suspect initially raised the handgun towards his own head, and then suddenly pointed the handgun directly at the two officers, holding it in a two-hand grip.

Both officers fired their handguns at the suspect. The suspect and one officer were both struck by gunfire. It appears that the injured officer may have been struck by gunfire from the second officer.

The Iowa Department of Public Safety Division of Criminal Investigation, assisted by Des Moines Police Department detectives, continues this investigation. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available for release.

Sgt. Paul Parizek