

Aug. 10, 2023

Investigation continues into Medicine Hat death

On Aug. 6, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) was directed to investigate a man's death following an encounter with police in Medicine Hat.

At approximately 2:02 p.m., Medicine Hat Police Service (MHPS) received a 911 call about a man screaming and swinging a machete. Police officers responded to an apartment at 144 2 Ave. SE, where they spoke with a 44-year-old man and told him that he was under arrest for possession of weapons for a dangerous purpose.

The man ignored directions from police and barricaded himself inside a residence. The MHPS tactical team arrived and spoke with the man, who exited the residence holding a machete and knife and advanced towards police officers. The tactical team deployed non-lethal rounds at the man and restrained him. Police found two weapons at the scene.



Knife located at scene.



Machete located at scene.

At 8:03 p.m., the man was transported to hospital and turned over to the care of hospital staff. At approximately 8:56 p.m., the man stopped breathing. Emergency medical measures were unsuccessful, and the man died.

ASIRT's investigation will examine the use of force by the officers. No additional information will be released.

As part of its ongoing investigation, ASIRT is continuing efforts to identify people who may have witnessed aspects of the confrontation between the man and police. ASIRT is asking anyone who may have been in the area and may have witnessed these events and/or may have video to contact investigators at 403-592-4306.

ASIRT's mandate is to effectively, independently and objectively investigate incidents involving Alberta's police that have resulted in serious injury or death to any person, as well as serious or sensitive allegations of police misconduct.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

ASIRT media line
780-641-9099