

Aug. 27, 2019

Man seriously injured during arrest by Calgary police

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) has been directed to investigate the circumstances surrounding injuries sustained by a 35-year-old man during an encounter with Calgary Police Service (CPS) officers on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2019.

At approximately 4:05 a.m., officers were called to a parking lot of a shopping complex in the 200 block of Shawville Boulevard SE following a report about a man armed with a bat and acting erratically.

ASIRT's investigation has included the seizure of Body Worn Camera (BWC) video, which is still being reviewed and analyzed. The availability of this type of evidence can provide critical information and context.

Upon arrival, officers located a man near several outdoor picnic tables and pulled up to this location. The BWC video from involved officers confirmed that as a uniformed officer exited a marked police vehicle, the man immediately started moving towards the officer, brandishing a large machete in his right hand and a small folding knife in his left hand, as the officer backed away. At 4:08 a.m., as the man continued to close the distance, the officer fired his service pistol and the man was struck in the lower torso and fell to the ground in a seated position, still armed with both the machete and the knife.

The man continued to wave the weapons while seated on the pavement, as officers continued to try and direct the man to surrender. Attempts to negotiate with the man continued as additional officers arrived. In an attempt to disarm the man, an Arwen less-lethal launcher, which fires plastic rounds, was deployed multiple times -- but it didn't succeed in disarming the man, who refused to drop the weapons. The tactical unit arrived and tried to negotiate with the man, who continued to refuse to put down his weapons. At approximately 7 a.m., tactical officers used a PepperBall launcher, which fires projectiles dispersing pepper powder, and a CEW, commonly referred to as a Taser, to disarm the man. This allowed officers to move in and take the man into custody so his injuries could be safely treated.

The man was transported to hospital with injuries that were not considered life-threatening. It was determined that as a result of this incident he had sustained a broken femur, and penetrating wound(s) as a result of the discharge of the firearm and/or the Arwen less-lethal launcher. Which use of force caused or contributed to the man's injuries remains part of the ongoing investigation.

Both the machete and the small folding knife were recovered at the scene.



As ASIRT's investigation is ongoing, no further information will be released.

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.

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Media inquiries may be directed to:

ASIRT media line
780-641-9099