

October 19, 2021

Investigation into RCMP officer-involved shooting causing death continues

On Oct. 15, the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) was directed to investigate a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officer's discharge of his service weapon during an encounter with a 27-year-old man earlier that day.

At about 5:34 a.m., Wood Buffalo RCMP received a complaint regarding a man in a taxi at the Fort McMurray International Airport holding a "large knife" to his own throat. Officers responded and, at about 5:48 a.m., located the man in a taxi parked on the departures level near the terminal doors. Shortly thereafter, the man exited the taxi. Available video footage confirms that when he exited the taxi, he was armed with a knife.

Officers had been speaking with the man for approximately 20 minutes when the situation escalated. Officers employed a 40-mm less-lethal impact munition and a conducted energy weapon (CEW), neither of which was effective. At approximately 6:19 a.m., an officer discharged his service weapon, striking the male and causing him to fall to the ground. A knife was recovered on scene.

Emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, who were staged nearby, provided emergency care to the male and transported him to hospital. The male passed away shortly after arriving at the hospital.

ASIRT's investigation will examine the circumstances surrounding the use of lethal force. No additional information will be released.

ASIRT continues to attempt to identify those who may have witnessed aspects of the confrontation between the male and police. As such, ASIRT asks that anyone who may have been in the area and may have witnessed these events and/or may have video to please contact ASIRT investigators at 780-644-1483.



Knife recovered from the incident scene

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