



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 30, 2016

FAIRBANKS, Alaska

At 1:40pm the Fairbanks Police Department received a call from a resident of the Alaska Motel. A male reported that an armed suspect entered his room. Occupants of the room were being assaulted and the suspect was pointing a gun at a female. It was then relayed to officers that a shot was fired.

Upon arrival, officers located the suspect leaving the Alaska Motel on foot and still armed.

As police pursued the armed suspect on foot, multiple commands to drop the weapon were given. Police deployed Tasers at the armed suspect, but it was ineffective. The armed suspect grabbed an elderly man as a hostage and used him as a human shield by attempting to put the elderly man between himself and officers. As a last resort the suspect was fatally shot by police.

The suspect is identified as Fairbanks resident James Robert Richards, DOB 7/13/88.

The three assault victims from the Alaska Motel room were transported by ambulance to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

Per the Fairbanks Police Department policy, the involved officer's name is not released for three days and is placed on administrative leave.

The investigation into this incident is continuing and anyone with information regarding this incident should contact investigators at the Fairbanks Police Department at 907-450-6500 and reference case 16-2703.

Contact: PIO Yumi McCulloch, 907-388-0909 ymcculloch@fairbanks.us

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