



For Immediate Release

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Government and Media Relations

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YVSIU Investigates Officer-Involved Shooting in Toppenish

Yakima, Wash. – The Yakima Valley Special Investigations Unit (YVSIU) is investigating an officer-involved shooting that occurred Thursday morning in Toppenish, Wash.

In the early morning hours of Thursday, June 6, 2024, representatives of the Yakama Nation Tribal Police Department and Toppenish Police Department responded to reports of a suspicious person at the 400 Block of South Toppenish Avenue in the City of Toppenish. Arriving officers encountered a male suspect with an edged weapon. During the contact, a Toppenish Officer discharged their weapon striking the suspect multiple times. The suspect fled and was located a short distance away. Officers rendered aid and the suspect was transported to an area hospital before being transferred to Harborview for medical treatment related to his injuries.

The Yakima Valley Special Investigations Unit (YVSIU) was activated, and the Washington State Patrol (WSP) is leading the investigation. Per policy and practice, WSP will be releasing weekly updates during the ongoing investigation of this incident through the WSP Government and Media Relations Office in Olympia, Wash.

The investigation is active and in its early stages so there is no additional detail available at this time.

Investigation and Process:

This update is required in compliance with WAC 139-12, which mandates weekly updates be sent out by the lead investigative agency in investigations where a Washington State Peace Officer uses deadly force in the capacity of his or her law enforcement duties. These updates are required even if no new information is available at the time of the update.

With the passage of Washington State Initiative 940 in 2018, and Substitute House Bill 1064 in 2019, incidents where the use of deadly force by a peace officer results in death, substantial bodily harm, or great bodily harm require an independent investigation. This investigation must be conducted in the same manner as a criminal investigation and state law now requires an “independent investigation” completely independent of the involved agency.

Per WAC 139-12, the IIT is unable to release any criminal history related to the individual, which includes the circumstances surrounding the initial contact, which prompted the law enforcement response. This information can only be released if specifically requested by the media, and is able to be released consistent with the Public Records Act Chapter 42.56 RCW.

Weekly updates will be provided as the investigation continues. The policies and operating procedures of the IIT are available to the public at: <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/independent-investigation-team/>.

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