



Office of the Chief • Chief John R. Batiste

For Immediate Release

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Government and Media Relations

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Critical Incident – Initial Press Release

Nine Mile Falls, Wash. – The Washington State Patrol (WSP), with assistance from the Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office, is investigating an officer-involved shooting that occurred Tuesday in Nine Mile Falls, Wash.

On April 28, 2026, at approximately 3:05 a.m., Stevens County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) deputies were dispatched to 16420 N. Suncrest Drive in Nine Mile Falls for a reported residential burglary in progress. Upon arrival, and with permission from the homeowner, deputies entered the residence, where they were immediately fired upon by a male inside.

One deputy was struck twice by gunfire in the upper chest/shoulder area. The injured deputy returned fire before being extracted from the residence.

Stevens County Sheriff's deputies established a perimeter around the home, and the Stevens County Special Response Team and Spokane County SWAT were called to the scene. After a standoff, crisis negotiators were eventually able to make contact with the male inside the residence; however, communication quickly ceased. A short time later, an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was deployed inside the residence, and the male was found deceased in a bedroom.

The injured deputy was transported to the hospital, where they underwent surgery and are currently in stable condition and are expected to make a full recovery.

The Independent Investigation Team (IIT) protocol was activated, and WSP, along with the Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office, responded to investigate. WSP has been designated as the lead investigating agency. In accordance with policy and practice, WSP will provide weekly updates on this ongoing investigation through the Government and Media Relations Office in Olympia, Wash.

The investigation remains active and in its early stages; no additional details are available at this time.



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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.

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.

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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