

BCA: Teen was armed with BB gun, hatchet - Report - Star Tribune: Newspaper of the Twin Cities (MN) - July 18, 2018 - page 01B

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A suicidal Chanhassen teenager shot and killed last week by Carver County sheriff's deputies was armed with a BB gun, according to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

The report released Tuesday also names the deputies involved.

Archer Amorosi, 16, had a handgun-style BB gun and hatchet when he was shot multiple times Friday after a brief standoff outside his family home, according to the preliminary report.

Carver County sheriff's deputies went to the home after Amorosi's mother called 911 to report that her son was suicidal and threatening her with knives and a baseball bat, the BCA said. According to 911 dispatch audio, Amorosi suffered from mental health issues, and police had responded to a similar call at the home the day before.

The BCA report said Amorosi refused repeated orders to leave the house, while a Taser and pepper spray deployed through a window were ineffective and the deputies remained outside.

"At one point Amorosi ran out the front door of the home holding a hatchet and what appeared to be a handgun. Deputies continued verbal commands and again deployed a Taser, but it was ineffective," the BCA said in a statement.

Two of the officers fired their weapons, and Amorosi was pronounced dead at the scene. BCA investigators recovered a hatchet and a handgun-style BB gun from near his body, the report said.

Body cameras and dash-camera video from one of the five responding agencies "may have recorded portions of the incident," the BCA said. The officers who fired their guns are on standard administrative leave. The BCA will turn its findings over to the Carver County Attorney's Office for review.

Officers identified

The BCA also identified the three officers:

- Cpl. Jacob Hodge fired his gun. He has been with the sheriff's office for 18 years.
- Deputy Travis Larson fired his gun and discharged his Taser and pepper spray. Larson has been with the department for two years.
- Cpl. Josh Baker discharged his Taser. Baker has been with the department for 11 years.

Larson was taken to a medical center in Chaska for minor injuries. He was treated and released.

Amorosi was a student at Minnetonka High School, where he played lacrosse and football. Funeral services are scheduled for Wednesday at Westwood Community Church in Excelsior.

According to data provided by the Carver County Sheriff's Office, the total of annual mental health service calls increased steadily over a 10-year period, from 129 in 2005 to 384 in 2015.

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