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1. [Suicidal father-of-10 pointing a gun at his own head is shot dead by Vermont cops - including an officer who has been involved in two other fatal shootings](#)

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# **Suicidal father-of-10 pointing a gun at his own head is shot dead by Vermont cops - including an officer who has been involved in two other fatal shootings**

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**Byline:** GERMANIA RODRIGUEZ FOR DAILYMAIL.COM

## **Body**

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- **Benjamin Gregware**, of Sheldon, was shot on Sunday on Interstate 89 in Bolton
- The 42-year-old was killed by a state trooper and a Richmond police officer
- His ex-wife had called 911 saying she was worried about him harming himself
- Gregware had recently lost his job and was struggling with alcoholism, she said
- He was pulled over and pointed the gun at his head before being shot, police say
- Both officers have been put on administrative leave

A distraught man pointing a gun at his own head was shot by police in a fatal traffic stop in Vermont, according to state authorities.

Police say 42-year-old **Benjamin Gregware**, of Sheldon, died at the hospital on Sunday after being shot on Interstate 89 in Bolton by a trooper and a Richmond police officer just before 4pm.

Gregware, a father of 10, was allegedly walking towards Trooper Christopher Brown and Richmond Corporal Richard Greenough after being pulled over and had refused commands to drop his weapon.

His ex-wife had called police before the shooting, saying she was worried about him because he was slurring his words and had told her he purchased ammunition at a Walmart, police said.

She also said her ex-husband, who had been scheduled to visit their children that day, had been laid off from his job and was struggling with alcohol addiction, according to a news release by Vermont police.

State Trooper Jay Rikken allegedly spoke with Gregware on the phone for about 20 minutes. The suicidal man told the trooper he was afraid of losing custody of his children and was going to drive until he ran out of gas and then 'end it'.

Brown and Greenough then stopped Gregware's red Honda Accord near marker 69 on the highway. Because it was a high-risk stop, Birmingham said, the officers drew their guns and commanded Gregware to exit the vehicle.

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Gregware then stepped out of the car and pointed a gun at his own head. He never pointed the gun at the officers, but refused to put it down as he approached them, according to authorities.

At least 12 shots were fired by the two officers, and at least three struck Gregware, investigators believe.

The victim's handgun was later found to have 14 rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber.

The incident was recorded by two cruiser cameras and Greenough's body camera, but footage won't be released until the investigation is over.

Colonel Matthew Birmingham said on Monday he is commissioning a study to determine if procedures need to change.

Trooper Brown has previously been involved in two other fatal shootings and a non fatal shooting.

Birmingham said.: 'I worry about Trooper Brown and the impact that this is having on him.

'These individual incidents are looked at independently of each other, not collectively, because lethal force is a justification point that occurs in a split second of time.'

Both officers have been put on administrative leave while prosecutors investigate the shooting.

In the last six months, Vermont State Police have been involved in three officer-related shootings, while this is the first officer-involved shooting for Richmond's Police Department in 50 years.

Richmond Police Chief Alan Buck said this was the first officer-involved shooting for the town's department in its 50 years.

Gregware's girlfriend Ann Shick took to Facebook on Monday to share her grief.

'I will love you for the rest of my life...' she wrote alongside a picture of Gregware and two children.

## Classification

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