

JOPLIN

POLICE

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Jason Burns
Chief of Police

Date: December 1, 2015
Origin: Department PIO
Contact: Captain Bob Higginbotham
Phone: 623-3131 #643

Update#3

There are three separate and concurrent investigations. This is usual and customary practice. The Missouri State Highway Patrol is conducting an investigation into the officer involved shooting. The Joplin Police Department Investigations Bureau is conducting an investigation into the actions of Mr. Hill including his actions prior to our arrival and including his interactions with the officers upon their arrival to the second call. The Joplin Police Department Professional Standards Bureau is conducting an investigation into the entire incident to ensure that officer actions are consistent and in alignment with department policy and training.

There is no body-worn camera video of this incident available. One officer had a body-worn camera but it was not activated at the time of the event.

Update#2

The suspect in this event is identified as Jeffrey L. Hill, 49, Joplin (photo attached). Hill remains under care at Freeman Hospital.

Update#1

The Missouri State Highway Patrol continues to investigate this incident. The suspect remain hospitalized as a result of his injuries sustained in this event.

Officer Seth Lugenbell and Officer Brett Davis are removed from line-duty assignment pending administrative review. Department policy requires that any officer whose action(s) or use of force has seriously injured another person shall be removed from line-duty.

This policy also covers involved officers. An involved officer is defined as an officer whose conduct was not the cause in fact of the injury but who was involved in the incident before or during the use of force.

This action protects both the officer's and the community's interest until the situation is resolved.

NEWS RELEASE

On November 30, 2015, at 9:16 PM, the Joplin Police Department responded to 3330 S. Texas, Oxford Apartments, in reference to a domestic assault. The suspect had fled the scene prior to the arrival of officers.

Officers were again called to this location at 10:37 PM in reference to a disturbance. Upon arrival, officers were confronted with the same suspect from the earlier event and one officer was involved in a shooting. The suspect sustained gunshot injuries and was transported by ambulance to Freeman Hospital where he continues to receive medical treatment. No officers were injured in this incident.

At the request of the Joplin Police Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol responded to conduct the investigation.

In accordance with standard practice, the officer involved in the shooting has been placed on administrative leave.

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