SWAT Call-up/Officer Involved Shooting

Officers and firefighter are current deployed in the 400 block of 44th Avenue North in response to an armed individual, possible suicidal, who had apparently set his home on fire and threatening officers.

The incident began at about 12:33 a.m. when the Fire Department responded to a house fire at 494 44th Avenue North. The house was fully engulfed and firefighters began efforts to try to extinguish the blaze when a neighbor notices the male resident of that home was standing in her backyard holding a handgun.

Police officers responded and cordoned off the area and attempted to establish contact with the man. During initial attempts to speak with him he fired at officers who disengaged and maintained a perimeter around the area.

SWAT members deployed around the area and attempted to reestablish contact with man in the alley behind the neighbor’s home. At approximately 3:15 a.m., as attempts to speak with the man were made, he threatened the officers with the handgun. Officers responded and fired at the man who was wounded. He was treated at the scene by paramedics and transported to a local hospital.

Mike Puetz will be responding to the scene and will speak to the media at 44th Avenue North and 4th Street.

Information released by Mike Puetz, michael.puetz@stpete.org, 727-420-6448