

RIVERSIDE: Man dead after arrest attempt prompts gunfire

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A man is dead at a Riverside apartment complex where officers tried to make a child molestation arrest this morning but ended up having to open fire on a gunman, police say.



DARRELL SANTOSCHI / STAFF PHOTO
Police block the street in the 10400 block of Indiana Avenue in Riverside Wednesday after reports of shots fired at an apartment complex.

“It appears he sustained gunshot wounds,” Lt. Guy Toussaint said soon after SWAT officers found the body at the Tyler Springs Apartments along the 10400 block of Indiana Avenue.

The gunfire erupted about 7:30 a.m. when detectives from the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit tried to serve an arrest warrant on a man wanted for several counts of child molestation, Toussaint said.

A man believed to be the suspect – whose name has not been released -- pulled a gun, prompting the officers to open fire, said Toussaint.

One of the officers immediately radioed an emergency request for backup. A SWAT team soon surrounded the suspect’s home, believing he was barricaded inside. But it wasn’t immediately clear whether the man had been hit by the police gunfire, Toussaint said.

One detective suffered an apparently minor leg injury during the initial confrontation.

“He basically rolled his ankle ... getting out of the line of fire,” said Toussaint.

At the height of the standoff, a police helicopter circled overhead, officers maintained a cordon around the complex, and at least three ambulances and several fire trucks were parked nearby.

Shortly before 10 a.m., SWAT officers found the body – and a shotgun.

Police have not conclusively determined that the dead man is the child molestation suspect. But they believe that's the case.

“All indications make it apparent this is the ... same man,” Toussaint said.

Staff writer Darrell Santschi contributed to this report