



**SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
A TRADITION OF SERVICE SINCE 1856

## NEWS RELEASE

**Incident Date and Time:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 5:05 PM

**Location:** 500 Block of Elm Street, San Carlos, CA

**Type of Crime/Incident:** Deputies Safely Respond to Report of Armed – Suicidal Subject

**Summary:**

On Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at approximately 5:05 PM, San Mateo County Sheriff's Deputies responded to an apartment complex in the 500 block of Elm Street, San Carlos, on a report of an adult male who was holding a knife to his chest and making suicidal statements. Upon arrival, Deputies located the subject behind a locked metal gate that enclosed the pool area, where the subject could be seen holding a large kitchen knife to his chest. The subject was highly agitated and appeared to be heavily intoxicated. Deputies safely repositioned to utilize time, distance, and cover to first gather resources and formulate a plan. Deputies learned the subject did not make any threats to harm anyone other than himself, commit any crimes, and no one was being held against their will.

Sheriff's Office Enhanced Crisis Intervention Trained Deputies (ECIT) were on scene, and from a safe distance, engaged the subject in conversation, and attempted to persuade the subject to drop the knife. The Sheriff's Office Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT) and Crisis Negotiation Unit (CNU) also responded to aid in the ongoing negotiation and de-escalation attempts. These efforts continued for well over an hour and a half; however, the subject refused to comply and was begging Deputies to shoot him. The subject was contained in the pool area and surrounded by a fence. A Deputy and FAA-certified remote pilot assigned to the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Unit also responded and deployed a drone to collect additional information and document the scene from overhead.

The subject eventually fell asleep due to alcohol intoxication. The subject was up against the fence, with the knife seen in his partially opened left hand. Using some creativity and outside the box thinking, Deputies who were behind cover on the other side of a large fence were able to successfully retrieve the knife from the subject's hand by using a large, industrial grade magnet, which they affixed to a painter's pole using duct tape. The subject remained asleep throughout the execution of the plan. Once the knife was secured, Deputies were able to safely detain the subject without using any force. The subject was evaluated on scene before being transported to a local hospital for further treatment and evaluation.

This case highlights the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office's Enhanced Crisis Intervention Training program and how our crisis response has aligned with recent law changes (California AB-392) as well as community expectations. Unless there is imminent danger or threats to others, Deputies will conduct pre-assessments, gather as much information as possible, and form a plan for de-escalation prior to attempting contact with individuals in crisis. We understand that the mere presence of uniformed Deputies can escalate situations, and we will utilize time and distance whenever possible to assess the best course of action for each situation. Utilizing time and distance allows us to take advantage of the many resources the Sheriff's Office has at its disposal to aid in de-escalation attempts when feasible.



Anyone who has information regarding this incident is encouraged to call the **San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Anonymous Tip Line at 1-800-547-2700.**

**Written by: Sergeant Brandon Hensel, San Carlos Police Bureau**

**Case #: 21-07374  
Release Date: 09/08/2021**

