

T O R R A N C E

Press Release
Police Department

Two Residential Burglary Suspects Shot During Search

On Saturday, July 14, 2007, at approximately 10:29 AM, Torrance Police officers responded to the 2600 block of 231st Street regarding a resident reporting two adult male subjects had first gone to his neighbor's front door and then had jumped a fence and gone into the rear yard of the residence. This information matched the method of operation used in a number of recent residential burglaries in Torrance.

As officers arrived in the area, additional witnesses provided information that the suspects were in the backyard of a home on the block and a red Chevrolet Cavalier that had left the area was possibly involved. That vehicle was stopped a short distance away near 232nd Street and Elm Avenue, and the driver, identified as 19-year old Erin Jamahl Madden of Harbor City, was subsequently arrested.

Officers set up a perimeter and called in a Long Beach Police helicopter that effectively monitored all activity within the search area boundaries for several hours while a K9 search was coordinated. Officers searched yard to yard with K9s from the Manhattan Beach and Torrance Police Departments until the suspects were located at the opposite end of the 2600 block of 231st Street from where the original caller initially saw them go into the neighbor's yard. The two suspects were found together in a storage shed in a rear yard of a residence at approximately 2:28 PM and an officer-involved shooting occurred when they were confronted. The suspects sustained gunshot wounds and both were pronounced dead at the scene by Torrance Fire Department paramedics.

The initial investigation indicated the suspects had committed at least one residential burglary. In addition, the suspects matched the general description of those involved in three residential burglaries that occurred in Torrance the day prior.

The identity of the deceased suspects is being withheld until family has been notified. Suspect Madden was booked for residential burglary and is being held at the Torrance Police Department's jail on \$50,000 bail; however, additional charges may be added.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is reviewing this incident as is routine for all officer involved shootings. The police investigation of this incident is on-going and is under the direction of Captain Marc K. Wilkins, Bureau Commander of the Special Operations Bureau.

Lieutenant Rod Irvine
Public Information Officer
(310) 618-5688 / cell (310) 901-0230