

Stanislaus County
**SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE 12-10-10
TIME 4:00 PM**

SHERIFF'S DETECTIVES INVESTIGATING HOMICIDE

Hickman, CA – Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department investigators are conducting a homicide investigation in the wake of a botched home invasion robbery Friday morning in which gunfire was exchanged and one man was killed.

Dispatchers received a 911 call at approximately 7:25 a.m. reporting that somebody had been shot near the intersection of Milnes Road and Oakdale Waterford Highway in the rural outskirts of Oakdale, California. Sheriff's Department detectives and deputies were able to respond within in a matter of moments and located two gunshot wound victims. Despite lifesaving efforts to revive one of those victims, the man with the most severe injuries was pronounced dead alongside the roadway near an overheated Nissan that was left billowing in smoke.

The other gunshot wound victim, whom had been hit by multiple rounds, was transported via air ambulance to a local area hospital. He is receiving medical treatment for his non-life threatening injuries and is listed in stable condition. Deputies immediately detained a third occupant in the car in order to gather further information and determine his exact involvement.

With the assistance of the California Highway Patrol, Sheriff's Department personnel assigned to main office patrol, Sheriff's Gang Unit, Riverbank Police Services, Waterford Police Services, Patterson Police Services, Hughson Police Services, as well as department personnel working within the canine and aero-squadron unit, helped to establish a perimeter and search for two other occupants who left the scene of the overheated Nissan. A Sheriff's Department canine working a scent track helped to locate and apprehend both men a short distance away in an orchard southwest of where the car had been parked.

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During the course of the preliminary investigation, dispatchers received several additional 911 calls reporting a second emergency in the 1000 block of Merriam Road in Hickman. Gunfire had been exchanged between a resident on Merriam Road, and one or more of the five men who had arrived moments earlier in the green Nissan. Records checks of the vehicle's license plate number revealed that the Nissan was reportedly used in another felony case in the Bay Area. Detectives have not yet had the opportunity to confirm, follow-up or further investigate the crime reported outside of Stanislaus County.

Detectives believe robbery was the motive, but nothing appears to have been stolen, and it wasn't exactly known what the men had intended to take. The suspects in the robbery appear to have ties to the Sureno criminal street gang. The resident on Merriam Road was grazed with a round fired by one of the gunmen; however, the injury was considered minor, and he was treated for the superficial wound without needing to be transported to the hospital. Detectives have not yet had an opportunity to investigate the possible link involving any prior instances at the Merriam Road residence, either.

The names, ages and hometowns of those being interviewed will not be released at this time. Detectives are interviewing all involved parties in order to determine everyone's exact involvement. Four men classified as persons of interest are being interviewed at the Sheriff's Department. It is not yet known who will be charged, who will be arrested, or what types of charges they could possibly face.

Anyone with information to help further this investigation is urged to contact Det. Darwin Hatfield at 525-7100. Those that wish to remain anonymous may call Stanislaus County Area Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-866-602-7463 or locally at 209-521-4636.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Luke Schwartz (209) 652-0211 (tschwartz@stanislaussheriff.com).