



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

Closed Use of Force Summary

Tracking Number: F18-080
Incident Number: 2018-20239893
Date of Incident: 12/5/2018
Chain of Command Finding: In Compliance with Policy

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

Officers and a Frontier Behavioral Health professional responded to a Suicidal call. The caller, a Lifeline employee, reported that he was speaking with a woman who wanted to drive her car into the river. Officers approached the house, but the woman shut the door and told them to go away. Officers spoke to a family member, who allowed them to come inside the house. Officers tried de-escalation tactics with the woman, who had shut herself in her bedroom. The woman, who appeared to be intoxicated, yelled that she had a gun and she would shoot officers if they came in the room. She also said she would shoot through the door. Officers continued to talk to her but she began to escalate, demanding that officers shoot her, as she wanted to die tonight. Officers removed the other family members from the house and then went outside. They spoke to her over the phone. The woman came outside. She and a sergeant continued talking while another officer watched her hands since she had claimed to have a gun. He had his 40mm direct impact launcher ready. Another officer alerted the others she pulled a gun out of her pocket and put it back in. He gave the woman commands to put the gun down but she did not comply. At that point, the officer fired his "less-lethal" 40mm direct impact launcher at her. Unfortunately, she did not fall to the ground after being hit with the 40mm rounds. Three officers pointed their firearms at her and demanded she put the gun down and show her hands. She did take off her coat and dropped it on the ground. She sat down and officers took that moment to grab her and take her into protective custody. Her gun was a realistic-looking BB gun resembling a Colt 1911 .45 caliber pistol. Officers followed the ambulance that transported the woman to the hospital. She sustained a few impact marks from the 40mm rounds. Officers provided information to hospital personnel and Frontier Behavioral Health for the involuntary mental evaluation. They asked for a longer duration on the hold since the woman told her family she could kill herself as soon as she returned home.

