

Statement from Police Chief Gary Young, Crete Police Department
Read at the regular Crete City Council Meeting, July 2

Mass Shooting
June 28, 2024
1225 Crestline Drive / 1810 Parklane Street

On June 28th 2024 at about 4:33pm Southeast Communications began receiving 911 calls regarding a shooting with multiple victims at 1225 Crestline Drive in the city of Crete. It was shift change for the department and 3 officers responded. Two others were off duty but armed and had a police radio and responded.

The officers formed a team and approached the area of 1225 Crestline. As they approached, they could hear gunfire coming from the area. At this point, they believed there was a shooter in the residence at 1225 Crestline Drive and had oriented their approach to that house. While officers covered the front of the house, an officer checked the back. While the officers at the front of the house were oriented to the front of 1225 Crestline, they heard a gunshot behind them, coming from 1810 Parklane St. They re-oriented on the threat.

The officers learned from dispatch that all the victims were in the house at 1225 Crestline and that the shooter was at 1810 Parklane. As officers were at the back of the Crestline house, they saw an adult female, with whom they began immediately communicating. She informed the officers that the victims and others were in the house. Officers went into the house locating the shooting victims and others who were sheltered in the basement.

Officers began immediately extricating the injured. They had contact with a neighbor to the south of the victim's residence who offered assistance. Officers decided they could move the victims through the citizen's house to Longwood Ave and medical assistance. Other officers would use themselves as shields as the victims were carried across an exposed area between houses.

During this rescue, some officers were maintaining overwatch on the suspect's house. As additional officers arrived, they were slotted into vantage points to firm up a perimeter and ensuring the suspect was not leaving the house. Deputies and NSP troopers were arriving and formed part of the perimeter. Additional officers were tasked to security at CAMC.

While the rescue was being conducted, the Nebraska State Patrol was notified and a request sent for their SWAT team and criminal investigations. A command post was established on Crestline, out of sight of the suspect house but close enough for the team to respond if needed.

Once SWAT was on scene, they launched their drone. NSP also had their helicopter orbiting at a higher altitude. Lancaster County SO supplied their Bear Cat armored vehicle to make delivery of a throw phone at the suspect's house. Operators in the Bear Cat also delivered a drone into the interior of the house once the door was breached. Using the drone cameras, they saw a male in a bedroom who appeared deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. A small team then entered the house and confirmed the suspect was deceased and that the house was otherwise unoccupied.

Upon conclusion of SWAT operations, the NSP CID began work on the outside of the house while search warrants were written for the suspect and victim houses. Investigative activities at the scene were concluded at about 230am on June 29th. Crete officers and Saline County deputies remained on scene for site security allowing the investigators to focus on the crime scene.

While the operations were being conducted at the house, those uninjured persons were taken to the Crete Police Department and were interviewed. Much later in the evening, one of the adults at the PD noticed that they had been struck by a pellet from a shotgun and was taken to CAMC for treatment. This created confusion about the number of victims being 6 or 7.

Lincoln Police Department assisted as victims were transferred to Bryan West. Their investigators conducted interviews with the victims, providing the information to Crete PD and NSP.

As the scene was contained and the SWAT team was clearing, officers were released from the scene to other duties, or allowed to go off shift.