

Officer suffers bite during gun-related arrest

(KAIR)--An Atchison man goes to jail, and an Atchison Police Officer goes to the hospital, following an early Wednesday morning domestic incident involving a gun. "Shortly after 3:00 Wednesday morning, officers responded to the 1000 block of North 10th to investigate shots fired. Once in the area, their attention was focused on a residence located at 1017 North 10th," Atchison Police Chief Mike Wilson told MSC News. He said when officers arrived at the address, one officer was bitten by a dog. "There actually were several officers who responded to the scene, [and] were there very quickly after first receiving the call. They were searching the area for the report of shots fired [and] it was very quickly that they began focusing on the specific residence. Two officers actually were approaching the front of the residence when a dog came out of a garage and grabbed the officer by the arm [which left] bite marks on his arm. He was soon freed from that bite hold from the dog when, what we now know to be the suspect, also came out to the front yard from a garage area, called for the dog, and then the officers dealt with the suspect."

The suspect is identified as 48-year-old Thomas Strathman.

Wilson said it's alleged that Strathman fired a gun, into the ground, outside the home, during an argument with a 56-year-old woman who also lived at the residence. "There had been a verbal argument in the residence, and during that argument, he held a handgun against, or toward, the victim. At that point, the victim was trying to flee the house [and] did go out the front door. It turns out, too, the dog that attacked the officer had been inside [but] went outside with the victim. At that point, the victim heard a gunshot and we believe the best information we have is the gun was fired at the ground. When the victim heard that, she took off running and fled the area."

Police located the victim, who was unharmed, a short time later, while Strathman was taken into custody.

He was arrested on charges of aggravated assault and criminal discharge of a firearm.

Following his arrest, he was booked into the Atchison County Jail.

Wilson said the officer who was bitten by the dog was taken to the Atchison Hospital for treatment and later released.

