

SIRT

Serious Incident Response Team

Investigation Summary:

Incident Type: Serious Injury

SIRT File No.: 2025-15

Incident Date: May 28, 2025

Agency Involved: RCMP

Civilian Executive Director: Greg Gudelot

Date of Report: April 10, 2026

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Introduction

On Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at approximately 1:10 p.m., the Saskatchewan Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT) received a notification from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) regarding an officer-involved shooting that had just taken place in a rural area near the village of Canwood. SIRT's Civilian Executive Director accepted the notification as within SIRT's mandate and directed an investigation by SIRT.

On May 28, 2025, members of the RCMP's Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team (WEST) located a vehicle associated with an individual wanted in relation to recent firearms incidents on the James Smith Cree Nation. RCMP members attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle, a dark-coloured SUV, but the vehicle failed to stop and a pursuit was commenced.

At various points during the pursuit, the SUV left the road and traveled through fields. At approximately 12:42 p.m., the SUV again left the road and the pursuit continued through a field into a pasture east of Canwood. At approximately 12:44 p.m., the SUV collided with an embankment in the pasture and came to an abrupt stop. Immediately after the SUV came to a stop, a 32-year-old male, subsequently referred to as the affected person, exited the driver's side of the vehicle, and a confrontation took place with the RCMP member operating the lead police vehicle in the pursuit. During that confrontation, the RCMP member, subsequently designated as a Subject Officer, discharged two rounds from a service pistol, striking the affected person in the arm.

Immediately after being struck, the affected person went to the ground and was arrested without further incident. The female passenger of the SUV exited the vehicle and was also arrested without incident. RCMP members provided first aid, and both occupants of the SUV were conveyed to hospital where they were treated. The affected person was treated for a gunshot wound to the left arm, and the female passenger, a 30-year-old woman, was treated for injuries sustained during the SUV's collision with the embankment.

Timeline

SIRT was notified of the incident on May 28, 2025, at approximately 1:10 p.m. A team consisting of six SIRT Investigators was immediately deployed to begin the investigation. On January 18, 2026, the completed investigation was submitted to the Civilian Executive Director for review.

The Investigation

SIRT's investigation was comprehensive and thorough, conducted using current investigative protocols, and in accordance with the principles of Major Case Management (MCM). During the course of the investigation, all relevant police and civilian witnesses were interviewed, a scene examination was conducted of the incident location, and all relevant audio, video, and documentary evidence was seized.

During the course of SIRT's investigation, one member of the RCMP was designated as a Subject Officer within the meaning of *The Police Act, 1990*. While under no legal obligation to do so, the Subject Officer voluntarily

participated in an interview with SIRT. Evidence directly from a Subject Officer is frequently invaluable and provides firsthand evidence of the beliefs and perceptions of the Subject Officer during the incident.

The affected person declined to participate in an interview with SIRT investigators but provided signed written consent for the release of his medical records to SIRT. Those records confirmed that during the incident the affected person sustained a fractured left arm as a result of a single gunshot wound, constituting a serious injury as defined by *The Police Regulations, RRS c P-15.01 Reg 7*.

A firearm recovered from the incident scene was seized as an exhibit and submitted for testing, which confirmed the firearm to be a Norinco Model 1911 .45 calibre pistol, in working condition, and a restricted firearm within the meaning of the *Criminal Code*. The Subject Officer's service pistol was seized as an exhibit in SIRT's investigation, confirmed to be in proper working condition, and passed all function testing and inspection.

Video footage of the incident was obtained from various sources, including footage from Body-Worn Camera (BWC) systems and footage from In-Car Digital Video (ICDV) systems located in the involved RCMP vehicles. These videos directly captured relevant aspects of the incident including the RCMP pursuit of the SUV, the affected person's exit from the SUV and subsequent actions, and the Subject Officer's discharge of his service pistol.

As the investigation proceeded, and as required by S.91.12(1) of *The Police Act, 1990*, a Community Liaison was appointed to assist the investigation. The liaison was provided with the opportunity to review the investigation in its entirety, and to make comments and recommendations as necessary.

This incident, and the events that preceded it, gave rise to numerous *Criminal Code* charges against the affected person. The investigation of those charges remained the responsibility of the RCMP, was separate from SIRT's investigation, and does not form part of this report. As those matters remain before the court, certain details have been omitted from this report pursuant to S.7.6(2) of *The Police Regulations, RRS c P-15.01 Reg 7*.

Summary

On May 28, 2025, members of the RCMP's WEST team located a vehicle associated with an individual wanted in relation to recent firearms incidents on the James Smith Cree Nation. RCMP members attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle, a dark-coloured SUV, but the vehicle failed to stop for police and a pursuit was commenced.

At various points during the pursuit, the SUV left the road and traveled through fields. At approximately 12:42 p.m., the SUV again left the road and the pursuit continued through a field into a pasture east of Canwood. At approximately 12:44 p.m., the SUV collided with an embankment in the pasture and came to an abrupt stop.

Immediately after the SUV came to a stop, the affected person exited the driver's side of the vehicle holding a silver-colored handgun. The Subject Officer shouted verbal commands for the affected person to show his hands, however the affected person remained behind the SUV, moving from the front of the vehicle to the

rear, before returning to the front. As the affected person returned to the front of the SUV, the Subject Officer discharged two rounds from his service pistol through the front windows of the SUV, with one round striking the affected person in the arm, causing him to fall to the ground. As the affected person fell to the ground, he threw the handgun toward the rear of the SUV, and once on the ground, removed and threw a bag that was later determined to contain the loaded magazine for the firearm.

Once on the ground, the affected person raised his uninjured arm and was arrested without further incident. The female passenger exited the SUV and was also arrested without incident. RCMP members provided first aid, and both occupants of the SUV were conveyed to hospital where they were treated. The affected person was treated for a gunshot wound to the left arm, and the female passenger was treated for injuries sustained during the SUV's collision with the embankment.

Analysis

Following a comprehensive review of the evidence gathered during the course of SIRT's investigation, it was determined that the information available to police, including the Subject Officer, was sufficient to provide lawful grounds for the arrest of the affected person on various *Criminal Code* charges.

Under S. 25 of the *Criminal Code*, a police officer is entitled to use as much force as necessary in the lawful execution of his or her duties. This can include force that is intended or likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm, when the officer reasonably believes that such force is necessary to defend themselves or someone under their protection from death or grievous bodily harm. Further, under S. 34 of the *Criminal Code* any person, including a police officer, is entitled to the use of reasonable force in defence of themselves or another. Factors in assessing the reasonableness of force used can include the use or threatened use of a weapon, the imminence of the threat, other options available, and the nature of the force or threat of force itself.

While the injury sustained by the affected person was confined to a fractured left arm, the level of force employed by the Subject Officer was of a nature that was intended or likely to cause death or grievous bodily harm, and accordingly, must be evaluated in accordance with that level of force.

The actions of the affected person upon his exit from the vehicle were capable of giving rise to a reasonable fear of death or grievous bodily harm on the part of the Subject Officer. The Subject Officer observed a firearm in the possession of the affected person, and movements by the affected person that were reasonably perceived by the Subject Officer to indicate an intention to fight rather than surrender. In these circumstances, the Subject Officer's perception of these actions as constituting an immediate risk of death or grievous bodily harm to himself or others was reasonable, and his actions in response to that perceived risk, namely the discharge of his service pistol, were reasonable.

While the firearm the affected person possessed was later determined to be unloaded at the time of the incident, there was no realistic or reasonable way for the Subject Officer to determine that given the nature of the incident and the speed with which it unfolded. As previously noted, it was later determined that ammunition capable of being discharged from that firearm was located in the bag thrown by the affected person following the incident.

In this case, following the application of the facts established by the evidence to the standard established by law, the force employed by the Subject Officer falls within the range protected by law, and accordingly, provides no grounds to believe that the Subject Officer committed any *Criminal Code* offence during the course of this incident. As a result, no charges will be laid.

Decision

There being no grounds to believe an offence was committed by any police officer, SIRT's involvement with this matter is concluded without referral to the Attorney General for Saskatchewan in accordance with S.91.08(10)(a) of *The Police Act, 1990*.

Original Signed

Greg Gudelot
Civilian Executive Director
Serious Incident Response Team (SIRT)

April 10, 2026

Date of Report