



Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff of Yuma County

141 S. 3rd Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364
Tel: (928) 783-4427 • Fax: (928) 539-7837
www.yumacountysheriff.org

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Tania Pavlak
Phone: (928) 783-4427
DR# 2025-81932

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2025 – 12:00 PM

Officer Involved Shooting

Location of Incident: 11300 Block of S. Avenue 12E – Yuma, AZ

On Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at approximately 7:22 PM, Yuma County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to the 11300 Block of S. Avenue 12 E in reference to a disturbance involving a subject with a firearm.

Deputies arrived on scene and made contact with the suspect. Reporting parties informed Deputies the suspect was discharging a firearm outside his residence and making suicidal statements.

During de-escalation attempts, the suspect was non-compliant to verbal commands and was observed stepping in and out of the residence while brandishing a handgun. The suspect refused to drop his weapon after several commands. The suspect discharged the firearm and was subsequently shot by Deputies.

The Deputies rendered first aid and the suspect was transported to Onvida Health by Rural Metro. The suspect was later pronounced deceased.

The deceased was identified as Lewis Berne, 77, of Yuma, AZ. Next of kin notification has been made.

The Yuma Regional Critical Incident Response Team has been activated to assume the investigation. No injuries to the Deputies or other community members were reported. The Deputies involved in the shooting have been placed on modified duty.

The Yuma Regional Critical Incident Response Team is an independent team comprised of trained law enforcement investigators from multiple agencies in the region to ensure a transparent, comprehensive, unbiased and complete investigation concerning our officer's actions.

Anyone with information regarding this case, please contact the Yuma County Sheriff's Office at 928-783-4427 or 78-CRIME to remain anonymous. You can also visit our website at www.yumacountysheriff.org to submit an anonymous tip.

Information released by: Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist