

\*Initial scene, Lt. Jay Parkison, #924:

On 10-08-09 at approximately. 1757hrs, I was off duty and at home when I was advised by dispatch of a call involving a number of victims in full code and possibly ten more victims being shipped out for medical treatment.

At approximately. 1844 hrs, I arrived on scene. Two or three subjects were in the process of being transported out via helicopter. I saw an area later identified as the sweat lodge. Fire and EMS personnel were working on several subjects. I was briefed by Sgt. Barbaro. He told me that two subjects had died and many more had been shipped out of the scene.

I was told that the deputies were trying to locate the organizer of the event so we could gather more information in an attempt to understand what may have happened and to determine, if possible, what caused the deaths and injuries.

During this time, I was contacted by fire department commanders. They told me they were unsure of the cause of the incident. Later they told me two persons died, four were air evac'ed out to Flagstaff Medical Center and ten were transported via ambulance to the Verde Valley Medical Center.

During this time, a male subject was pointed out to me by one of the deputies as the event organizer. He was talking on his phone and standing outside the secured perimeter. I identified myself to the man and asked him to hang up so we could talk. He ended the call and I started to gather his basic information. He identified himself as James Arthur Ray, [REDACTED]. I asked him also for his residential address. He asked why I would need that and I explained that at a later date we possibly would need to reach him. He told me you have my work address. I replied that he may not always have the same employer. His response was "That's not likely." He was reluctant to give me his home address and would only tell me that he lived in [REDACTED].

During this time, Mr. Ray and I were handed a bottle of water by fire services personnel and we both drank from the bottles as we spoke.

At about that time, Sgt. Barbaro came to our location. I asked subject Ray at about what time the sweat lodge started. Subject Ray told me it ran from about 4:00PM to 6:00 PM. I asked how many people were in the lodge. Subject Ray told me approx. 40 people. He explained that he has hosted the lodge once a year and this is the fourth year for the event. I asked him how a sweat lodge works, if there is a source of flame in the lodge or how the heat is produced. He told me the lodge is built on site and that the rocks are heated with a wood fire outside of the lodge in a fire pit. He pointed to a fire pit separate. I saw a hole in the ground with char marks and wood stacked next to it.

Due to the demands of the situation, I was needed by fire services. I asked subject Ray to remain in the area so EMS could seek him out if needed for treatment of the medical patients. Ray agreed and remained in the area on his cell phone.

As the situation unfolded, I spoke to Captain Starin via cell phone and advised him on the situation. I also spoke to Sgt. Dan Winslow by cell phone and gave him an update on the incident.

The night was cold and damp due to the close proximity to the creek. A deputy offered subject Ray and others the use of their patrol vehicles for warmth. They were allowed to sit in the rear portion of the vehicles with the heaters running and the doors open.

At some point, I checked on the people in the patrol vehicles to check on their comfort. Subject Ray was talking to his attorney on his cell phone. He asked if I would speak to him. I agreed. The attorney identified himself and told me he was Mr. Ray's attorney. He asked if I knew how much longer we would be in need of Mr. Ray's availability. I told him I wasn't sure. He expressed some concern over Ray's comfort. I assured him we were providing for Ray. We ended the conversation and he thanked me for my time.

Mr. Ray told me he was thirsty and that he had not eaten because a deputy had asked him to come down to the sweat lodge site. I asked him if I could bring him another bottle of water. He held up a half full bottle of water and told me no.

A short time later, the scene began to settle and Criminal Investigations arrived on scene. I met with Sgt. Winslow and passed along the information I had. After his briefing I went to the kitchen, located on a hill above the sweat lodge site. Kitchen staff packed four to-go dinners. I gave one to Mr. Ray and the other three I gave to subjects that were in another police vehicle.

During this time, I again spoke to Ray's attorney. He asked me if I knew when Ray would be interviewed. I told him I didn't know. The attorney told me "I think I'm going to advise Mr. Ray not to talk to investigators." I told him that was between him and Ray.

The remainder of my time on scene I assisted with the mobile command post and made staffing arrangements for the VIPs.

End of supplement.

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