



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) was assigned as the lead FIU case agent. SA Poole received assistance in the investigation from SA Amanda North (SA North), SA Joshua Schlie (SA Schlie), SA Carrie Ryan (SA Ryan), and SA David Wieging (SA Wieging). BCI Special Agents Mathew Austin (SA Austin) and Brittney VanBibber (SA VanBibber) of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident, documenting, preserving, and collecting possible evidence. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Kevin Barbeau (SAS Barbeau). Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Written statements from the two involved officers who discharged their weapons. Per the deputies' attorney, the deputies will only submit a written statement and no interviews were conducted.
- Statements of the officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview(s) of the involved subject's family
- Interviews of seven civilian witnesses to the incident
- Obtained and reviewed preliminary post-mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) trace on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine ownership history)
- Review of all available dash cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans / model of incident area
- Shooting reconstruction and trajectory analysis
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) communications relative to the incident
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Obtained search warrants for the subject's phone and performed an analysis of the data present
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
 2. Firearm operability testing
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Obtained subpoenas for medical records
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through subpoena
- Performed records checks, including LEADS and NCIC off-line search, for the vehicle(s) involved in the incident

Incident Summary/Overview

On Sunday, October 26, 2025, the Ross County Sheriff's Office requested the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) to respond to 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601 to investigate an officer-involved critical incident (shooting). BCI was informed deputies on-scene were investigating an assault that occurred earlier this date. During the arrest

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

of 58 year old Bryan Rothe (assault suspect and OICI involved individual), he attempted to flee on foot, where deputies attempted to tase him. This was unsuccessful and Rothe ran to his home with the deputies giving chase. Rothe was said to have brandished a firearm and two (2) deputies discharged their duty firearms, striking Rothe. Medical attention was rendered to Rothe, who was transported to the local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. No law enforcement personnel were injured during this encounter.

Decedent

Brayn Rothe (Rothe)

Autopsy Report

The Preliminary autopsy report for the decedent (Rothe) was obtained from the Montgomery County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

The autopsy report was authored by Lee Lahman Ph.D M.D. The "CAUSE OF DEATH" for Bryan Rothe was not listed and the "MANNER OF DEATH" was not listed due to the document being a preliminary report.

The information deemed to be the most relevant to this inquiry is summarized below for the convenience of the reader. However, as the author is not a doctor, it is suggested that the report be viewed in its entirety to ensure no pertinent information has been omitted or described out-of-context.

Injuries included:

- [REDACTED]

Physical Evidence

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. Multiple agents responded and processed the scene, to include photographing and mapping the area, as well as the search for, documentation, and collection of items of possible evidence. Detailed

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical
Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

crime scene reports were completed with the below information only summarizing some of the more significant findings.



Image 1. Drone photograph of 371 SR 180

Evidence collected outside included:

- Gun/Firearm Cardboard Box containing Rifle -- Quantity: 1; Short barrel rifle, no brand or S/N visible, with purple forward grip, grip, and stock, found with loaded chamber, and 5.56x45 Pmag with 21 cartridges
- 3 Envelopes containing Fired Projectile -- Quantity: 1 each ; Small copper jacketing found on floor by front door
- Envelope containing Fired Cartridge Casing -- Quantity: 1; 10 casings, 9mm WIN, found by front of trailer
- Envelope containing Fired Cartridge Casing -- Quantity: 1; 15 casings, 9mm WIN, found closer to gate
- Envelope containing Ammo Magazine -- Quantity: 1; Empty SIG 9mm pistol magazine, marked capacity of 17, located in grass near item 11
- Envelope containing Taser -- Quantity: 1; Taser wire found in grass outside of gate
- Envelope containing Fired Projectile -- Quantity: 1; Projectile located behind home by shed

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)



Image 10. Flight path rod in yard

Evidence collected inside the residence included:

- Envelope containing Fired Projectile -- Quantity: 1; Fired projectile found on floor in living room
- Envelope containing Fired Cartridge Casing -- Quantity: 1; Rifle casing, 5.56 AP 20, found in office by front door
- Envelope containing Fired Cartridge Casing -- Quantity: 1; Rifle casing, 5.56 AP 20, found in office by front door
- Envelope containing Fired Cartridge Casing -- Quantity: 1; Rifle casing, 5.56 AP 20, found in office by front door
- Envelope containing Fired Cartridge Casing -- Quantity: 1; Rifle casing, 5.56 AP 20, found in hallway by front door

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
 Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

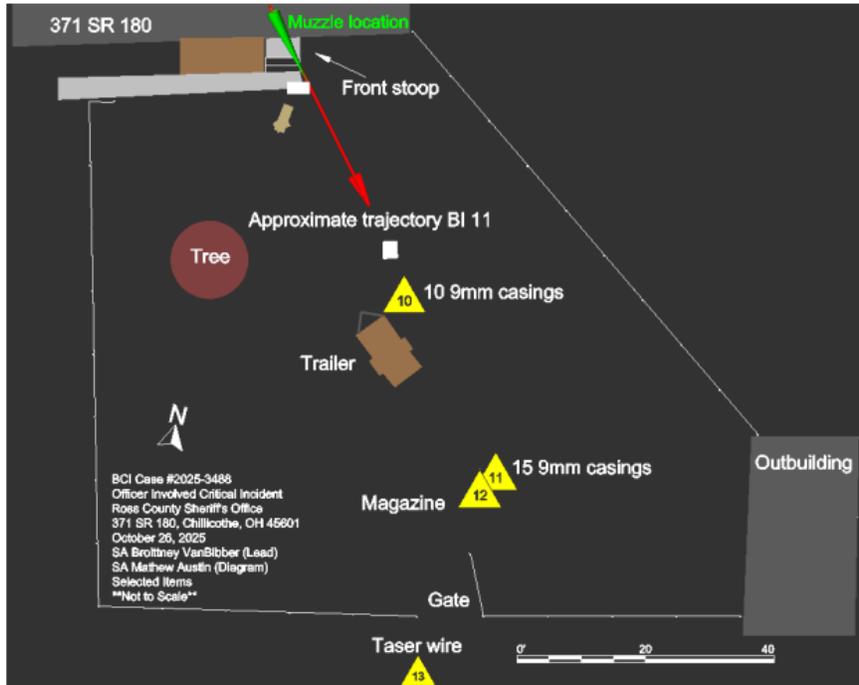


Image 2. Diagram of yard including selected items



Image 5. Item 2- Purple/black rifle

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical
Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

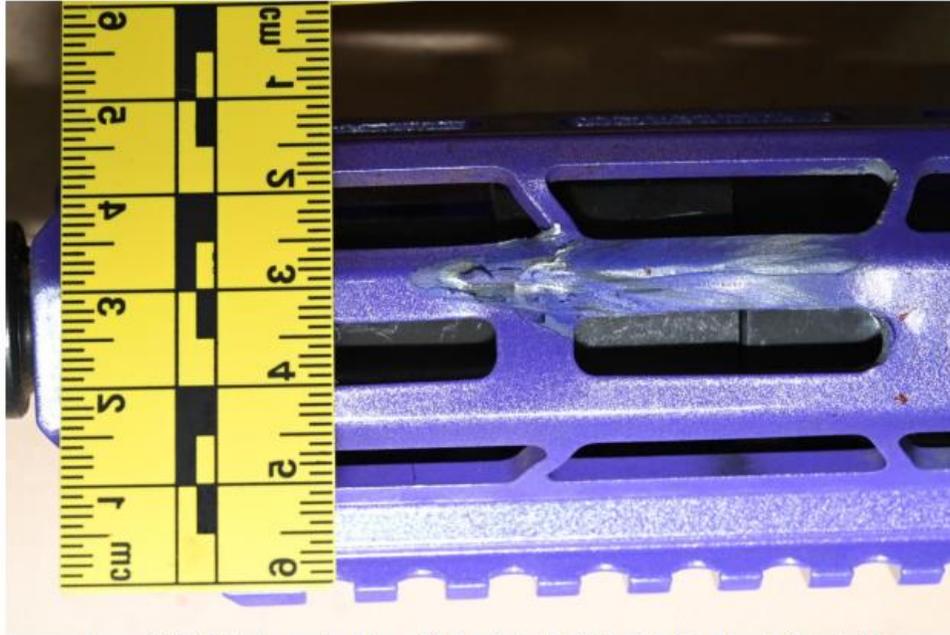


Image 6. Ballistic Impact on Item 2 (Muzzle to the left, shot direction left to right)

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene, vehicles, and autopsies (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

1. Rifle
2. Sig Sauer Pistol [REDACTED]
3. Sig Sauer Pistol [REDACTED]

SA Poole reviewed the laboratory report and noted the following:

1. Rifle was source identified to Items 6, 7, 10, 11: 5.56 NATO fired cartridge casings. Concluded as Operable.
2. Sig Sauer Pistol [REDACTED] was source identified to Items 4, 5, 12, 15: Fired jacketed bullets and bullet fragments. Concluded as Operable.
3. Sig Sauer Pistol [REDACTED] was source identified to Items 9 and 2: 9mm cartridge casing and fired jacketed bullet. Concluded as Operable.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

Witnesses

Debra Arthurs:

Debra explained she arrived at her husband's tow company property, ANS Towing, following a disturbance with the neighboring resident. Debra explained by that point, the disturbance had concluded and deputies from RCSO arrived on scene. Debra explained that her son, Anthony Arthurs (Anthony), had lost his glasses during the altercation and a customer had also lost his glasses so Debra was helping search for the glasses. The deputies were gathering information regarding the disturbance and shortly thereafter Debra heard gunfire. Debra explained that she first heard gunfire from one (1) gun, followed by gunfire from what sounded to be from a second firearm. Debra surmised that there were two (2) different guns that she heard fired.

SA Ryan asked Debra if she saw or heard anything accompanying the gunfire. Debra explained she could not see anything; however, heard a female screaming, but was unsure what was said. SA Ryan asked Debra if the deputies were wearing law enforcement uniforms and she confirmed they were; it was visually apparent that they were law-enforcement.

Shawnee Certain:

Certain discussed an altercation that she was aware of earlier that day. Certain explained she is an employee and tow truck driver for ANS Towing. When Certain arrived to ANS Towing, RCSO were already on scene and she witnessed two (2) deputy cruisers present. Certain was told there had been a physical altercation because a customer (someone whose vehicle had previously been towed) had mistakenly pulled into and parked in the neighbor's driveway located at 371 SR 180 in Chillicothe, Ohio. Certain was told the male, who has been identified as Christopher Lemaster (Lemaster), got into a physical altercation with the neighbor, who Certain described looking like "Santa Claus." "Santa Claus" has been identified as Bryan Rothe (Rothe). Certain said she heard Rothe's son and daughter had also been involved. Certain said she did not witness any of the altercation, but noticed that her boss' son, Anthony "Tony" Arthur's face was covered in blood.

While the deputies were on scene and mitigating the situation, she explained they were all looking for missing glasses which were lost during the altercation. During that time, Certain noticed a sheriff's deputy, who she described as "skinny," go around the property to the rear residence (Rothe's residence). Certain estimated approximately seven or eight (7 or 8) minutes after, she started hearing gunfire. Certain explained the first volley of gunfire sounded to be from a ".22" caliber firearm. Certain estimated the

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

first volley sounded like it was approximately four (4) shots. Certain then heard loud gunfire which she presumed was from the deputy's firearm. Certain estimated hearing approximately five or six (5 or 6) shots. Certain explained she grabbed everyone and directed them behind cover because she heard gunfire potentially hitting vehicles. Certain described the incident as "terrifying." Certain noted all the gunfire came from the northwest area where Rothe resides.

Certain noted, recently there had been some property disputes with Rothe and his family and things have become tense. There had also been an issue with the dumpster. Additionally, Certain explained a couple of months ago, there had been a fire at Rothe's house, potentially caused by an oil spill and ANS Towing may have been to blame. After that point, Certain stated Rothe had become "crazy."

Jessie Farney:

Farney explained the deputies arrived very shortly after and gathered the information about the altercation and started mitigating the situation. Farney noted the law enforcement deputies were aggravated with them as well.

Shortly after the deputies approached Bryan's residence, because he instigated the situation, she heard approximately five (5) small pops from a firearm and then approximately twenty-five (25) to thirty (30) loud booms from a different firearm. Farney explained everything happened very quickly and she ended up collapsing from anxiety. SA Ryan asked Farney if she heard anyone speak during the gunfire. Farney explained that because of her state of mind, she didn't hear anything else.

Anthony Arthurs:

Arthurs stated that he had the male on the ground on his back, while others were on Arthurs' back, and Arthurs got up, turned around and pinned Bryan against the tree before all agreed that they were done with the altercation. Arthurs stated that things seemed to be calming down, and that Wesley was helping Arthurs look for his glasses on the ground. Arthurs stated that Bryan then moved the tractor to the end of the driveway to block it and went back to his residence. Arthurs wasn't sure of the route that Bryan took to get back to his residence but indicated that Arthurs' girlfriend had a video.

Arthurs stated that he then began hearing gunshots and stated that it was Bryan that was shooting. Arthurs stated that the deputies took off running, and everyone was getting down on the ground, and that then Arthurs then heard the deputies shooting. Arthurs grabbed his girlfriend and took her down the road to safety and put her in an unknown female's vehicle that was traveling on the road, toward 159. Arthurs stated

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

that there were no deputies at Bryan's residence when the shooting started. SA North asked Arthurs whether Bryan was already back in his residence when the deputies arrived on scene. Arthurs agreed that he was.

Wesley Rothe:

Wesley indicated that when the gunshots were heard, he was in the yard between his property (located at 393 SR 180) and the tow yard property. Wesley indicated that an altercation had taken place, and deputies from the Ross County Sheriff's Office responded. While officers were taking his statement, other officers went to the residence at 371 SR 180 looking for his dad, Bryan Rothe (Bryan).

Wesley heard the gunshots and he, his sister, and the other officers went running toward the house. Wesley indicated that he saw two officers firing their weapons into the house. Wesley indicated that his mother, Tonya Rothe (Tonya) was "almost getting in the way" so he and sister went to get her away. Wesley indicated that Tonya was on the left side of the tree in the yard.

As Wesley turned to run toward the residence at 371 SR 180, he heard his dad yell something about being hit. Wesley indicated that officers were still firing when Wesley got to the fence.

Wesley stated that after the gunshots, one officer put Tonya in handcuffs. SA North asked if Tonya was part of the altercation that had taken place with the people from the tow yard. Wesley stated that he didn't know, but that she had gone with the officers to the residence to locate Bryan. Wesley heard Tonya screaming as the gunshots were heard.

Taryn Rothe:

According to Taryn, the tow truck driver continued to taunt her and her brother, and they attempted to get the deputy to make him stop. Taryn then heard what she thought was one shot. She and her brother then ran to the back house. When she got to the end of the green trailer at 393 SR 180, she saw three deputies standing shoulder to shoulder shooting into the residence at 371 SR. 180. She could not see her dad. Her mom started screaming from behind the deputies in the yard near the big tree. Taryn believed her dad was inside the residence. Taryn entered the backyard through the big gate her mom and the deputies went through. She then heard her dad screaming in pain.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

Taryn stated that one of the deputies handcuffed her mom and she understood why. Both Taryn and her brother were standing with her mom when she was handcuffed. The deputies were staggered together just off the sidewalk in front of the main entrance. At some point, the deputies went inside the residence. Taryn stated she was trying to keep her mom from seeing what happened. Taryn was unable to hear what the deputies were saying amongst themselves. She said that when the deputies were firing, they either emptied their magazines or were very close in emptying their magazines. She stated all three deputies were shooting at the same time. Taryn did not see her dad shooting.

Tonya Rothe:

Tonya said the police arrived and took all of the Rothe's information and then told the daughter to go back to the house to get Bryan. According to Tonya, Bryan had stated that he wasn't coming back out because he thought things would get started again, but the police had said that nothing would happen because they were there.

Tonya stated that the police then went back toward the back house, at the fence, and told Bryan that he was under arrest. Tonya stated, "they all were fighting, why was Bryan the only one that was going to go?" Tonya said that Bryan said no and then the police tased Bryan, and Bryan ran back into the house. Tonya then said, "I'm still back by the fence and the next thing I know, shooting, he was at the door at the mesh screen, and then they started shooting."

Tonya said that she had looked up and Bryan had a gun, but she didn't believe that he had fired it. Tonya said that "all three of them started shooting" and that Bryan went down to his knees and Tonya heard Bryan say, "you got me" or "you shot me." Tonya said that Bryan fell over and she went to run to him but was then arrested by one of the officers that fired his weapon. Tonya was told to stay back by the fence with her kids that had come back after the shooting, until they put her in the cruiser.

Tonya said she saw the officers doing chest compressions on Bryan. The ambulance arrived and Tonya heard somebody say that they "pronounced him at 3:57." Tonya clarified that Bryan had been holding a rifle in the position as if to fire. Tonya could not recall any of the officers telling Bryan to drop his rifle or put it down. Tonya did not know how many gunshots she heard but said "a lot."

Officer Statements

The following paragraphs are extremely abbreviated versions of each officer's account of his or her actions pertaining to this incident and/or discharging their weapon. More

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview.

Deputy Weaver:

While searching for the glasses I heard ██████████ mark on the radio taser deployment. I began running to the back of the residence. As I rounded the corner of the front trailer, I observed ██████████ and ██████████ in shooting positions approximately 50 yards away from me. ██████████ was off to the right, and ██████████ was in front of me. ██████████ were aiming toward the front door of the trailer that was perpendicular to the road but set approximately 100 yards from the road. While running toward ██████████ I heard, and observed, gunfire.

██████████ let dispatch know that shots were fired. A female was off to the left screaming. I could hear a male groaning in pain. I had my service weapon drawn. The female was placed into wrist restraints and told to go to the rear of the property with her family members.

The three of us, ██████████ and I stacked up and slowly approached the doorway of the residence. I told ██████████ was going to approach the right front corner of the porch to see if I could see the suspect and the weapon. When I looked into the doorway, I observed the barrel of a rifle laying in the entryway of the door frame behind the screen door. The main door to the residence was open. I observed a male laying down in close proximity to the weapon. I relayed the information to the other Deputies then retreated back to the stack due to the weapon pointing in the direction I was.

██████████ asked if I could tell if the suspect was touching the weapon, but I was not able to on my first approach, so I re-approached and looked. I did not see the suspect touching the weapon. I relayed that information as I retreated back to the stack. Deputies then began moving into the porch area of the residence. Commands were given for the suspect to not touch the weapon.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

[REDACTED] opened the door and removed the weapon while I was holding security on the suspect. I informed the other Deputies I did not see any other weapons around the suspect. [REDACTED] then moved to the suspect and began life saving measures. [REDACTED] said he needed an IFAK (individual first aid kit). I turned around and ran toward my cruiser. As I was running toward my cruiser Deputy Woodbridge was approaching us. I immediately told him we needed an IFAK and turned around and began running toward his cruiser as well.

Deputy Woodbridge was able to find his IFAK but I did not locate mine. We ran back to [REDACTED] began placing gauze on the wounds of the suspect and holding pressure. While [REDACTED] was applying the gauze Green Township EMS arrived on scene and took over life saving measures.

Deputies assisted with loading the suspect on to the cot, and also assisted with getting the cot through the yard and driveway to the waiting ambulance.

[REDACTED] Statement:

[REDACTED] and I made contact with the suspect at the edge of his fenced in front yard. There were two small dogs and one medium sized dog that began barking at our arrival. The suspect asked his wife, the original female I had spoken to, to take the dogs into the residence. The female attempted but was unable to corral the dogs into the house, so they remained running free inside the fence. [REDACTED] and I remained on the outside of the fenced area, toward OH-180 while the suspect remained on the inside, just across the fence from us. I observed no visible injuries to the suspect from the previous altercation. [REDACTED] then initiated contact with the suspect. [REDACTED] requested ID from the suspect, who complied with this request.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

After having Dispatch run the suspect for wants and warrants by his driver's license number [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] asked him his version of events.

The suspect then stated the same reasons for the argument as Group 2 had, that is to say, the argument had stemmed from Group 1 pulling into the driveway on Group 2's, as well as the suspect's property. [REDACTED] asked the suspect if there were any threats made during this argument that caused the suspect to fear for his safety. The suspect stated that there were not.

[REDACTED] then asked the suspect what had caused him to start punching people. The suspect stated that, while he was in an argument with one of the males from Group 1, another male began to "flank" him, and so he punched the male that was in front of him. After punching the first male, the other male subject from Group 1 tackled the suspect to the ground. The suspect stated "that should be on the video" or words to that effect, to which [REDACTED] replied, "That happened after you started punching people" or words to that effect.

At this point [REDACTED] asked if he could step into the fenced front yard with the suspect. The suspect replied "No." At this point there was probable cause based on the statements from Group 1, the injuries to the male in Group 1, the admission of the suspect and the video footage, to place the suspect under arrest for assault. [REDACTED] advised the suspect that he was under arrest and the suspect stated "That ain't happening today" and then turned to flee toward the residence.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

Allowing the suspect to flee into the residence carries inherent risk. If [REDACTED] and I allowed the suspect to get into the residence, the suspect could have retrieved a weapon, or barricaded himself inside the residence. With these risks in mind, [REDACTED] and I both drew and deployed our issued Taser 7s in an effort to stop the subject from fleeing a lawful arrest. Each Taser 7 contains two cartridges. Each cartridge contains two probes. I fired both of my cartridges, as did [REDACTED] for a total of four cartridges and eight probes. I observed at least two probes make contact with the suspect, but the Tasers did not achieve the desired neuromuscular incapacitation. The suspect ignored these probes and continued to flee toward the residence. I then said "Well, now he is getting resisting arrest" or words to that effect. At this point, [REDACTED] opened a gate along the fenceline and myself and [REDACTED] began to pursue the suspect on foot.

[REDACTED] was running toward the residence, however I was moving at a walking pace, attempting to keep the three aforementioned dogs in my field of view as they were unleashed and running freely in the fenced area. I was doing this as I have personal experience of being attacked by a dog in the line of duty. That attack caused a substantial laceration on my leg and required medical treatment in the ER. While I was watching these dogs the female that I first spoke with, the suspect's wife, stated "don't shoot my dogs." to which I responded "If they come at us we'll have to handle them" or words to that effect.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

After this exchange of words I heard a loud yell. I am unsure at this time who yelled, or what they said. After hearing this yell I looked toward the front door of the residence. I observed the suspect, who had already made it back inside the home, opening the front screen door of the residence and standing in the threshold of the doorway. I saw in the suspect's hands what appeared to be a long firearm, meaning either a rifle or a shotgun. The suspect then brought the weapon to bear in the direction of myself and [REDACTED]. This created an imminent deadly threat of serious bodily harm or death to myself, [REDACTED] and all other persons in the vicinity. At some point during this time I drew my service weapon. Due to the risk of imminent deadly harm to all parties on scene, there was no time to issue verbal commands to the suspect. Attempting verbal commands at this point in time would have created greater risk to myself. [REDACTED]

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

[REDACTED] and all of the innocent bystanders on scene. I then heard what I believe was an exchange of gunfire between [REDACTED] and the suspect. I moved off-line from the position I was in, to my right in order to clear [REDACTED] from my line of fire, as he was almost directly in front of me when this engagement began. I then began to return fire in the direction of the suspect. Neither myself, nor [REDACTED] was able to take cover as, being in the front yard of the residence, there was no cover to be found that was near enough to be effectively utilized. I was some distance from the suspect, I would estimate about 15-20 yards during this engagement. I fired 17 rounds toward the suspect, one entire magazine, aiming center mass as my training has taught me. I continued firing through all 17 rounds as the suspect was still up, pointing a weapon at myself and [REDACTED] and the suspect was still a deadly threat. As my weapon went to slide lock, I observed the suspect falling back into the residence. I performed an emergency reload and, while doing so, yelled "Get out [REDACTED] meaning for him to fall back toward my location. As I no longer observed the suspect posing a deadly threat I did not fire any rounds out of my second magazine. I then began hearing what appeared to me to be painful screams from the [REDACTED] and all of the innocent bystanders on scene. I then heard what I believe was an exchange of gunfire between [REDACTED] and the suspect. I moved off-line from the position I was in, to my right in order to clear [REDACTED] from my line of fire, as he was almost directly in front of me when this engagement began. I then began to return fire in the direction of the suspect. Neither myself, nor [REDACTED] was able to take cover as, being in the front yard of the residence, there was no cover to be found that was near enough to be effectively utilized. I was

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical
Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

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At this point I moved forward to the left of [REDACTED] and I asked if the other had been struck by gunfire and each in turn confirmed that neither of us had. By this time Deputy Weaver had ran to our position. The suspect's wife, obviously distraught, was screaming. [REDACTED] then said "somebody get her cuffed" and Deputy Weaver handcuffed the suspect's wife. I then called out to the suspect several times saying phrases like "Do not move" and "If you touch that gun you're going to get shot again" or words to that effect, but received no response. I

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

then took point, meaning I took the lead position, with [REDACTED] slightly behind me and to my right. Deputy Weaver was then behind and slightly to the right of [REDACTED]. I then began a slow approach toward the residence, observing that the screen door had closed behind the suspect when he fell. There was also what appeared to be a small deck in the front of the residence with steps leading up to the screen door. Around this time dispatch marked and asked if we needed a "29" (ambulance) dispatched. [REDACTED] replied "yes please." I then marked on the radio "stage them" as the scene was not yet secure.

Once I was about five yards from the screen door, which was made entirely of a metal mesh, I could observe the suspect lying on his side. I called out again saying "do not move." [REDACTED] then called out "can you hear us" but again we received no response. I then asked Deputy Weaver if he could see the gun from his position. Deputy Weaver stated that he could not. I then said to Deputy Weaver "turn your flashlight on and see if you can see the gun" or words to that effect. Deputy Weaver moved to the right of my position and stated that he could see the firearm but that it was pointed to where he was standing and he moved back behind [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] then said "I have a shield in my car. We're going to hold here." Knowing that any sort of shotgun or rifle would have the handguns that myself and the other Deputies were armed with completely outmatched, I did not want to sacrifice an extra firearm if the suspect began shooting again while one of the other Deputies attempted to retrieve a shield. With this in mind I asked Deputy Weaver if he could see if the suspect's hand was on the firearm. Deputy Weaver returned to his position to the right of me and stated that "It does not look like he's touching the gun" or words to that effect.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

At this time I heard what appeared to be almost a snoring sound come from the suspect. Through my experience with severely injured persons I knew this to mean that the suspect was likely incapacitated. I said "He's down hard" and proceeded to move toward the front of the residence. [REDACTED] paused to put on nomex gloves to render aid to the suspect. I then said "If you're gloved up, holster, let Weaver take your place and get behind us" or words to that effect. Once Deputy Weaver was stacked on me we approached the screen door, I opened it, and I retrieved the firearm, which appeared to be similar to an AR-15 type weapon. Once this firearm had been removed, Deputy Weaver said "I don't see any other firearms." [REDACTED] then moved into the residence and began attempting lifesaving measures on the suspect, who was unresponsive.

Statement:

We made contact with Mr. Rothe and a female in their front yard. There were also several dogs running around the yard. A fence with a closed gate separated us. I asked Mr. Rothe what happened. Mr. Rothe told me that the other party had trespassed on his land so he was going to push their vehicle off his property with a tractor. Mr. Rothe further stated that he then got into an argument with the other party and felt he was being "flanked from two corners" so he "took one". I interpreted that he "took one" as meaning that's when he hit the victim. Mr. Rothe said he was tackled after. I asked Mr. Rothe what words were being exchanged, or if threats were made. Both he and the female stated "no". I told Mr. Rothe I had watched the video and that it showed him punching the other male. He said the male was yelling at him; I asked if he knew what he was yelling. He stated he didn't know.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



**Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical
Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)**

I then opened the fence and began to chase after Mr. Rothe. I lost sight of him as he entered the home. The female began yelling for us to not shoot her dogs. I requested that she tries to get her dogs. As soon as I finished my request, I saw Mr. Rothe in the doorway of the house. Mr. Rothe was standing in a bladed, shooting stance with a rifle raised and pointed right at me. The rifle was in his right hand with his left hand supporting the rifle. I thought I was going to be killed. I thought [REDACTED] was going to be killed. I worried the victims and other involved parties from the assault would be killed. I knew my body armor was not rated to stop rifle rounds. I was in an open yard with no cover and no ability to retreat safely. I felt severely outgunned in terms of firepower, protection and having to react to Mr. Rothe's action. I've been taught that action is faster than reaction. I instinctively drew my sidearm and began firing to save my life, [REDACTED] life, and the public's life. Mr. Rothe was also firing. I am not sure who fired first. Due to the immediacy of the threat, there was no chance to give orders or

Based on the totality of circumstances of video evidence presented, victim's statements and Mr. Rothe's statement that no threats were made, probable cause was established to effect an arrest for assault. Mr. Rothe had his hand placed on the opening gate to keep it closed. I asked Mr. Rothe if I could step into the yard and he said "no". I told Mr. Rothe he was under arrest. Mr. Rothe responded "that ain't gonna happen today. You'll send me a thing." Mr. Rothe, who had been facing me, then turned towards his house and began taking steps further to his house. This escalated the situation to non-compliance and active resistance. Based on my training and experience, given the fence separating us, I decided the Taser would be the best tool to affect the arrest and stop his resistance. As I unholstered my Taser, Mr. Rothe began running toward the house, resisting arrest. I deployed two cartridges from my Taser [REDACTED] did the same. Mr. Rothe stumbled and yelled, but neuromuscular incapacitation was not achieved. Mr. Rothe continued running toward the house.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



**Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical
Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)**

try reasoning with Mr. Rothe. I aimed center mass as training dictates. I fired until Mr. Rothe fell to the ground and was no longer a threat. I fired to protect myself, [REDACTED] and other law enforcement responding and to protect the public. At the time, I did not know how many rounds I fired.

Once Mr. Rothe had fallen back and collapsed, I radioed to dispatch that shots were fired. The female began walking towards the house as the dogs were running around the yard. I ordered her to get on the ground, but she did not. She continued walking around in a panic. Fearing she may try approaching the house to retrieve a firearm or interfere, I ordered "someone" to secure her in handcuffs. Deputy Weaver went and secured her towards the fence where we first spoke with Mr. Rothe. [REDACTED] and I moved to better positioning. Given I did not know many rounds I fired, I reloaded my firearm and retained the magazine. Deputy Weaver joined us. I asked [REDACTED] if he was okay and checked myself the best I could for injuries. Deputy Weaver repositioned himself to try getting a better angle to see where the gun was. He reported the gun was laying on the ground, pointed towards him near a dog that was sitting at the doorway. Dispatch asked if they should send an ambulance. I requested they send one, but to "stage" them. This is standard protocol until law enforcement can ensure the scene is safe and the threat no longer exists. This was done to protect EMS

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

I called out several times asking if Mr. Rothe could hear us. He did not respond. I first planned to have us approach the house with a shield in the event Mr. Rothe continued fighting or tried to ambush us. Deputy Weaver repositioned himself again and reported the gun was not in Mr. Rothe's hand. I then heard a "gurgle". The gurgle, commonly referred to as a "death gurgle", suggests serious injury. I holstered my firearm and began putting on gloves to begin rendering aid. [REDACTED] and Weaver then made a tactical approach into the residence with me in the back. [REDACTED] continued giving commands for Mr. Rothe not to move. [REDACTED] picked up the rifle which was laying in the doorway, pointed towards the front door. I took possession of the rifle and placed it outside of the residence, still within eyesight of other deputies for scene preservation.

Once inside, I began looking over Mr. Rothe. I noticed blood on the floor. I requested a deputy to get an IFAK to begin life saving measures. I asked [REDACTED] for his knife to remove his shirt to find the source of the bleeding. Mr. Rothe was still taking short breaths. I cut off Mr. Rothe's shirt and began checking for gunshot wounds. I found one gunshot wound on his stomach. I applied a gauze pad to his stomach and applied pressure to control bleeding to try saving Mr. Rothe's life. Deputy Woodbridge arrived and used shears to remove Mr. Rothe's pants to continue checking for injuries. He also performed a "blood sweep" to check for location of other injuries. Deputy Woodbridge found an additional wound to Mr. Rothe's forearm. Green Twp EMS then arrived responded in to the scene once it was deemed safe for them to do so.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
 Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

Dispatch-Related Information:

Response Times		
		10/26/25 15:04:02 Claytor, Johnna New CFS
Assigned	10/26/25 15:06:01 *	10/26/25 15:04:42 Claytor, Johnna CALLER IS AT ANS TOWING POSS FIGHT
Enroute	10/26/25 15:06:01	10/26/25 15:04:54 Claytor, Johnna HAS GOTTEN PHYSICAL
Staged	10/26/25 15:28:35	10/26/25 15:06:01 Claytor, Johnna Ross [REDACTED] Enroute
Arrived	10/26/25 15:10:49	10/26/25 15:06:05 Claytor, Johnna Ross [REDACTED] Enroute
Backup Requested		10/26/25 15:06:32 Claytor, Johnna EVERYONE IS SEPARATED AT THIS TIME
Backup Arrived		10/26/25 15:10:16 Weaver, Blake Ross84 Enroute
Leaving	10/26/25 15:47:39	10/26/25 15:10:49 Mullett, Jason Ros [REDACTED] On Scene
Arrived At	10/26/25 15:51:08	10/26/25 15:10:53 Mullett, Jason Ros [REDACTED] On Scene
Completed	10/27/25 01:32:37	10/26/25 15:14:32 Claytor, Johnna Ross84 On Scene
		10/26/25 15:21:10 Claytor, Johnna Ros [REDACTED] Check Status (Time (minutes): 15)
		10/26/25 15:21:11 Claytor, Johnna Ros [REDACTED] Clear Alarms
		10/26/25 15:21:14 Mullett, Jason Ros [REDACTED] Clear Alarms
		10/26/25 15:24:47 Claytor, Johnna 84 SHOTS FIRED

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

BWC Video Review:



- At the 13:38 minute marker, after discussing what happened, [REDACTED] asked if he could step into his yard through the gate. Rothe immediately said, "No." [REDACTED] stated, "You're under arrest." And Rothe replied with, "Well that's not going to happen today. You can send me a summons. Have a good day." And immediately turned around towards his house.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)



- At the 13:44 minute marker, [REDACTED] are seen deploying both of their Tasers towards Rothe, where he then takes off running towards the house.
- After seeing the Taser not being effective [REDACTED] re-holsters and enters through the front gate into the yard traveling after Rothe.



- At the 13:59 minute marker, as [REDACTED] was approaching the front door, he pulls out his duty pistol and fires several rounds toward the front door. Multiple different gunshots can be heard until the 14:07 minute marker.

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**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)



- As they enter, a purple rifle can be seen laying in the entry way. Deputies can be seen moving outside away from Rothe.

Conclusion:

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed (or attempted), and all known pertinent records and evidence have been obtained and reviewed. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. BCI's investigation into this officer-involved critical incident is concluded unless such new information/witnesses is/are identified through grand jury or other means. Agents remain available for consultation and/or to perform any additional investigation, analysis, processing and/or other assistance/involvement you might deem to be necessary

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved critical incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent James Poole. SA Poole can be reached via email at james.poole@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at 614-370-4820.

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical
Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

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