

Man killed in officer-involved shooting

By [Brian Knox](#) / Published on March 27, 2020

One person was killed in officer-involved shooting early Friday morning north of Alvord.

The 53-year-old man, identified as Thomas Byron, was pronounced dead at the scene in the area of Private Road 2698, according to Wise County Sheriff Lane Akin.

Two deputies responded to a home on PR 2698 around 2 a.m. after a woman said she received an email from Byron, an ex-boyfriend, saying he was on his way to her house. Akin said officers had responded to domestic issues at the location in the past, including a possible arson case late last year.

When the officers arrived, the woman told them Byron had already come and gone from the home, and she said he had left in a white Chevrolet pickup. One of the deputies drove back toward Alvord to try to locate the suspect's vehicle.

"Within about a mile or so of her residence, he met a white Chevrolet pickup headed back down Private Road 2698," Akin said.

The pickup did not stop immediately and drove back by the complainant's house before stopping shortly past it.

Akin said the man briefly got out of the truck but then got back inside. By this point, both officers with their emergency lights activated were located behind the pickup, the sheriff said, and shouted commands to the man to step back outside the vehicle.

Byron did not comply, he said.

"They heard what sounded like the slide action on a semiautomatic pistol, and both deputies acknowledged there was likely a weapon inside the vehicle," Akin said. "They they heard a gunshot from the pickup. One of the deputies returned fire. After the return fire, there was absolutely no response from inside the pickup so they both approached and found the man had been hit by gunfire."

Akin said a weapon was located in Byron's vehicle.

Wise County EMS was called to the scene and determined the man's injuries were fatal. Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Kim Redman pronounced Byron dead at the scene and ordered the body be sent to the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy.

The Texas Rangers were called to investigate the shooting.

"At this point, we don't know for absolutely sure if it was the deputy's shot that hit the man and ultimately killed him or if it was self-inflicted," Akin said. "Early indications are it was self-inflicted."

The officer who fired on the suspect was placed on administrative leave.

"We've had the chance to talk to him," the sheriff said. "He's been placed on administrative leave and will be back early next week."

Neither officer was injured. The complainant was also not injured.

"It was a difficult situation for both deputies," Akin said. "No doubt they were both upset. We appreciate and recognize the peril they were in and the good work that they've done."