



# Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

826 Fourth Street, Eureka, CA 95501

**Date:** 07-22-2014

**From:** Lt. Steve Knight  
(707) 268-3630

**Subject:** Homicide Rancho Sequoia

**Case:** 201403367

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On 07-21-2014, at approximately 9:49 p.m., the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a resident in the Rancho Sequoia area of Humboldt County who reported there had been a shooting and someone was shot. Two Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Deputies were in the Rancho Sequoia area at the time, looking for murder suspect Matthew Aaron Brown, 30 years old, who was wanted for the 07-18-2014 shooting homicide of Neil Decker, age 49. The deputies heard several shots at the same time the citizen reported the shots, and were on scene within minutes. The deputies were informed by the citizen that murder suspect Matthew Brown was in the area where the shots had been fired. The deputies were also informed that local residents had gone looking for Brown, and that one of the residents was believed to be shot and had major injuries. Medical personnel were called to the scene, along with additional law enforcement from the California Highway Patrol and Fortuna Police department. Medical personnel staged in the area awaiting law enforcement personnel to secure the scene for their safety.

The deputies located a deceased person in the roadway. Due to an armed murder suspect being in the area, the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office SWAT team was called to the scene.

The SWAT team arrived at approximately 5:00 a.m., 07-22-2014, and located murder suspect Matthew Arron Brown at approximately 6:00 a.m. Brown was arrested and is currently enroute to the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office. Humboldt County Sheriff's Detectives are being assisted by

Humboldt County District Attorney's Office Investigators, Eureka Police Detectives and California Department of Justice .

A Humboldt County Superior Court Search Warrant has been obtained and investigators have begun searching the property. The area is still an active crime scene and it is unknown if there are any other victims.

Additional information will be released as it becomes available; investigators are still in the process of determining what happened. This is the fourth homicide in the Rancho Sequoia area in the last 24 months.

Anyone with information for the Sheriff's Office regarding this case or related criminal activity is encouraged to call the Sheriff's Office at 707-445-7251 or the Sheriff's Office Crime Tip line at 707-268-2539.

Mike Downey  
Sheriff

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