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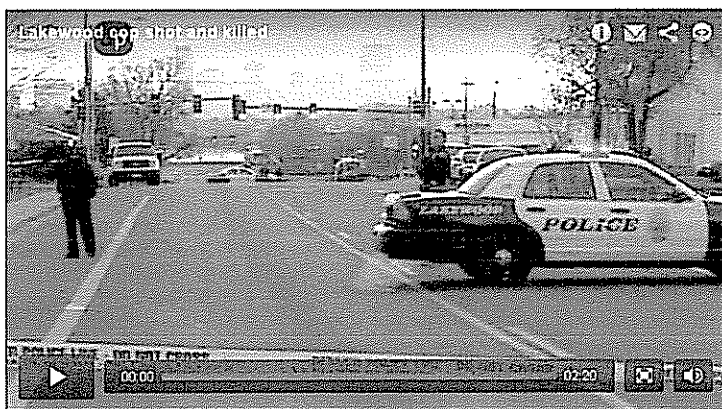


Lakewood police officer fatally shot by another officer

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By Kieran Nicholson, Sadie Gurman and Kirk Mitchell The Denver Post

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LAKESWOOD — The Lakewood officer shot and killed Friday morning was shot by another officer, officials said at a 2 p.m. news conference

"The officer did die after being shot by another officer," said Steve Davis, Lakewood police spokesman

He named the slain officer as James Davies, a 35-year-old, 6½-year veteran who had a wife and two young children. Davis said Davies was assigned to a special enforcement team and was wearing a uniform and protective vest when he was killed. His parents are from England



Lakewood police officer James Davies (provided by Lakewood Police Dept)

The name of the officer who fired the fatal shot was not released

Davies was killed early Friday morning after three suspects were taken into custody at a Lakewood home a few blocks west

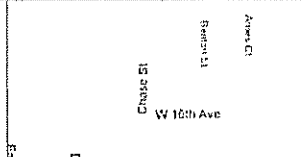


of Sloan's Lake, authorities say.

They have not been formally arrested as of Friday afternoon.

Davies was in the backyard of the home, in the dark, when another officer saw him, Davis said.

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The officer gave Davies a command and Davies didn't respond, thinking that the officer was instructing someone else

The officer fired, not knowing his gun was trained on a fellow officer, Davis said. The two officers were within 10 feet of each other but were separated by a

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will help homeowners get better service and insurance."

Bob Gann, chief of the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department

"We're a donation-based organization. We don't receive any tax funds," Chief Bob Gann said. "That became known during the fire, and people were very generous — nationwide." Donations poured in. The department's annual Labor Day weekend fundraiser netted close to \$100,000. At the festival, one thubarb pie — made by Barb Monesson from a resurrected plant charred by the blaze that claimed her home on Whale Rock Road — sold at auction for \$1,000. "I have nothing but high praise for the department — our wonderful ex-

RIST » 88



Bob Gann, the chief for the Rist Canyon Volunteer Fire Department, looks over maps of the High Park burn area Wednesday. The all-volunteer department received many donations from around the country after the destructive blaze, which started in June. Helen H. Richardson, The Denver Post

# Officer killed by friendly fire always focused on job

The Lakewood Police Department "is reeling with pain" over the loss of a colleague eager to make the tough arrest and go the extra mile.

By Sadie Garman *The Denver Post*

Lakewood police Officer James Davies was his sergeant's ideal: focused, undaunted, always up for a tough arrest. He was so committed to his job that when the department needed an extra officer to work the overnight shift late Thursday, he swapped the cargo pants and black shirt he had worn on special assignment for a standard blue patrol uniform and headed into the unknown.

Davies, 35, responded to a report of shots fired, a call made more chaotic by yelping pit bulls, high fences, the chatter of many voices over the police radio and the early-morning darkness.

It was that confusion, police say, that probably caused fellow Lakewood Officer Devaney Braley to mistake Davies for an armed threat and fatally shoot him. "My team is reeling with pain right now from this," said Lakewood police Sgt. John Hitchens, who oversees the special-enforcement team of which Davies was a member. "This is the worst of the worst that we'll ever deal with. He was a co-worker, he was a friend, he was a brother, and we're missing our brother."

While the department mourned Davies, a 6½-year veteran of the force, investigators from several agencies continued to study the backyard at 1940 Eaton St., where the shooting occurred.

They were trying to determine what exactly caused one officer to open fire on another, a rare scenario that, according to one study, has happened fewer than 30 times in the U.S. In the past three decades. Officers investigating reports of a prowler in the neighborhood a few blocks west of Sloan's Lake heard the gunfire and traced it to the home on Eaton Street, where a man was standing on the porch, firing into the air, police said. Officers arrested three men and

LAKWOOD » 88



James Davies, a 35-year-old Lakewood police officer, was shot by a fellow officer early Friday.

# WOLVERINE goes it a in Color

M56 thrives in the as the state waits decision on endar

By Bruce Finley *The*

While state biological authorities to decide — wolverines — climate change, one line is making the mountains are a critical But the wolverine his own, and it likely of the state legislators others.

Now entering a fifth trekking from Wyoming Red Desert into Roosevelt Park, M56 has but thrived. Food been a problem — mer, meaty elk donor State tracking transmitter in his being as far as 100 miles west of Fort Collins 70 to Mosquito southeast of Leadville Biologists say N

# LAKWOOD

◀ FROM 1B

prepared to search the home again for others, taking up positions in neighboring yards. Davies stood on the side of an apartment building to the north.

An officer, first identified by CBS4 and confirmed by The Denver Post as Braley, went into the backyard at 1940 Eaton St.

The police officers were separated by a 6-foot-tall wooden fence, over which Braley could see just enough of Davies to tell he was armed, Lakewood police spokesman Steve Davis said Saturday.

Braley gave commands to the effect of "Drop your weapon," Davis said, but Davies probably believed Braley was talking to someone else.

Davies said nothing — and then Braley fired over the privacy fence, hitting him.

Officers knew someone had been struck, Davis said, but there was a delay before they realized it was one of their own.

Archived police radio transmissions captured the commotion:

"He's on the north side of the fence, Sarge. You got to move people. He's north side of the fence that runs between us and the apartment building. Hispanic male. Shaved head. Black semi-auto," an officer called out after shots were fired, adding later that there was a fence separating him and "the suspect."

About a minute later, an officer called: "We don't know if the suspect is mobile or not. He might be hit. But he still might be on his feet. We are unsure where he is at at this time."

Two minutes later, "42 — to Davies, where are you?"

"Hold the air for a minute. We are going to start trying to look into this."

"Can you hold the air — we

have the suspect down. He is shot, not moving. Hold the air."  
 "We need to find Davies. He's not answering his phone."

It was unclear when officers realized Davies was down. He was pronounced dead at the scene, where he had been joined by other members of the special-enforcement team, including Hitchens.

The team normally spends its days executing warrants and combating a range of problems in the city — gangs, graffiti, prostitution.

Davies' specialty was tracking sex offenders who had failed to register. He was so good at that, Hitchens said, that the department opted to devote a pair of detectives specifically to the task starting next year.

"He worked that like no one else ever has," Hitchens said. "Jim was so single-mindedly focused on doing the job the best he could, he could not be exasperated."

A native of England, Davies called criminals "dirties" and himself "the dirty hunter," proud of how prolific he had become in capturing them.

"A week ago, he worked overtime and he was as thrilled as he possibly could have been," Hitchens said. "He put eight people in jail that day."

He was equally devoted to his family — his wife, Tami, daughter, Chloe, 6, and son, Ethan, 2, the sergeant said.

Braley, 35, with 11 years on the force, was distraught and did not wish to discuss the incident, said an officer stationed at the door of his home.

The Jefferson County district attorney's office, based on a probe by a critical-incident-response team, will decide whether his use of force was justified.

In 2009, the Denver district attorney's office ruled Braley was justified when he shot and killed an armed man who had threatened several people in a nearby liquor store.

Fatal officer-on-officer shootings are rare. The last Colorado officer killed by friendly fire was Northglenn Cpl. Edgar Blaine Rains Jr., struck by a fellow officer's shotgun blast while responding to a domestic dispute in May 1984.

Twenty-six officers were shot and killed by other officers between 1981 and 2009, according to a Harvard University study on the topic, done after two New York officers were killed by colleagues in an 18-month period. Those shootings — like the majority, the study found — were cases of mistaken identity, in which an officer shot another, believing he was an armed criminal.

Sadie Gurman: 303-954-1661, [sgurman@denverpost.com](mailto:sgurman@denverpost.com) or [twitter.com/sgurman](http://twitter.com/sgurman)

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# TRAVEL

...many of whom will go back to patrol assignments

The department has already performed a study to determine which positions are to be filled by civilians. They are expected to include administrative assistants, crime-scene investigators and fingerprint technicians, Capt. Jennifer Steck said.

"The chief really looked at all positions, and he was careful to determine which positions he

...from the police union. Some jobs that could be up for grabs — such as crime-scene analysts who collect evidence at the scene — require law enforcement experience, said Nick Rogers, president of the Denver Police Protective Association.

"It helps to have been a police officer," he said. "You have to know the streets and know the nuances of how these crimes are committed. You can't learn

the University of Colorado Denver's School of Public Affairs.

And Denver will be able to hire from other departments that already have civilians handling the tasks.

"There are many jobs that a civilian with the proper training can do well, and crime-scene investigations is among them," Dodge said.

Civilians may also be more appropriate in reception areas

other department in Colorado that has replaced officers with civilians.

In San Jose, Calif.; San Diego; Seattle; and Fort Lauderdale.

budget constraints have led to a drop in the number of Denver officers to about 1,386 today, from 1,450 before White was sworn in almost a year ago.

Since his appointment by Mayor Michael Hancock last December, White has been working to get more police on the streets.

The department employs 240 civilians, including crime analysts and staff assistants.

Police departments across the country have been cutting

Tom McGhee; 303-954-1671, tmcghee@denverpost.com or twitter.com/dpmcghee

because of the cost savings"

# Homeowner held after Lakewood cop's death



**Joe Anthony Ruiz**, 37, is being held at the Jefferson County jail on \$25,000 bail

might have thought Braley was talking to someone else, didn't do so, Braley fired over the fence, hitting him.

Davies was pronounced dead

at the scene. "We knew going into this situation that night that there were guns; our officers had witnessed the gunfire. Our awareness was on a height-

ened level," Davis said

Tom McGhee; 303-954-1671, tmcghee@denverpost.com or twitter.com/dpmcghee

By Tom McGhee  
The Denver Post

The owner of the home where a Lakewood police officer mistakenly shot a fellow officer has been arrested for firing gunshots that led to the deadly police response.

Joe Anthony Ruiz, 37, is being held at the Jefferson County jail on \$25,000 bail. He is suspected of being a previous offender in possession of a weapon, tampering with evidence, reckless endangerment and other offenses.

He appeared in a Jefferson County courtroom to be advised of his rights Sunday afternoon.

Lakewood police Officer James Davies, 35, was killed by Officer Devaney Braley while responding to reports of shots fired at 1940 Eaton St., which is owned by Ruiz, early Friday.

There were three or four people at the house before Ruiz allegedly came out and started firing a weapon, said Lakewood police spokesman Steve Davis.

Police took three people into custody and interviewed them after Davies' shooting. Apparently, Ruiz was the only one who had fired shots, Davis said.

Ruiz began racking up a police record in September 1994 with an assault charge, according to Colorado Bureau of Investigation records. He was arrested for assault and menacing in 1995, assault and disturbing the peace in 1996, and assault again in 1999.

Officers were investigating reports of a prowler in the neighborhood a few blocks west of Sloan's Lake when they heard gunfire. An officer who was patrolling nearby saw Ruiz "step out onto the porch of his house and fire some rounds into the air," Davis said.

There had been reports of shots fired earlier in the evening as well, Davis said.

Police set up a perimeter as they prepared to search the house to make sure no one else was inside. Davies was slightly to the north of the house, a 6-foot-tall fence separating him from Braley, who didn't know the man on the other side was a fellow officer.

Braley could see what he believed was an armed suspect and ordered Davies to drop his weapon. When Davies, who

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