

November 6, 2019

IIU concludes investigation into injury to suspect following police pursuit near Flin Flon

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an incident in which a 42-year-old man sustained injuries after stealing a vehicle with a child inside it and being pursued by RCMP from detachments in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The IIU has determined no charges should be laid against any officer as a result of the incident.

On the afternoon of July 31, 2018, a woman who made a brief stop at a convenience store in Creighton, Saskatchewan left her pickup truck idling and with her three-year-old daughter inside. While in the store, the woman observed her truck backing out of the parking lot and called Creighton RCMP who, in turn, notified the Flin Flon detachment to be on the lookout for the vehicle.

The vehicle was spotted and was pursued on Highway 10 by three RCMP vehicles from Creighton and Flin Flon, south toward Cranberry Portage, where a member from the Cranberry Portage detachment deployed a spike belt on the road. The truck eventually rear-ended another vehicle and the suspect ran from the area. An officer from The Pas detachment attended with a police dog, which tracked the suspect to a carport. When the suspect refused to surrender, the police dog was deployed, thereby allowing officers to make a successful arrest.

The child was uninjured and returned to her family. The suspect was taken to Flin Flon hospital, suffering from a dog bite, where it was determined he also had broken ribs. As a fractured rib is defined as a serious injury under IIU regulations, the agency was mandated to investigate.

The suspect refused to speak with IIU investigators and would not consent to the release of his medical records. Therefore, IIU could not determine the extent of his injuries or how he obtained them, but did note the injuries to his ribs were consistent with the collision in which he was involved.

In his report on the investigation, IIU civilian director Zane Tessler wrote that the pursuit, and use of the spike belt and police dog, were all appropriate in the circumstances. He further concluded that the collision was the sole responsibility of the suspect.

The civilian director's complete report is available online at www.iiumanitoba.ca. The details of this investigation were first announced on August 2, 2018.



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Information on the IIU can be found at www.iumanitoba.ca or at www.twitter.com/IUManitoba