

## Domestic Violence Response Call Shooting

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### *The importance of timing and distance when officers fire their weapons*

Three officers responded to a scene where domestic violence had been called in. The suspect worked as a landscaper and had a pruning saw in his hand as he walked out his doorway. The officers gave a verbal warning for the suspect to drop his saw, then began shooting the suspect giving him life suspending injuries. Our client wanted Knott Laboratory to use the available information to reconstruct the timing and placement of the shootings, the verbal warnings, and the parties involved to see if there was excessive force used.



*Video-Tracked positions of the officers and suspect over the course of the incident*

All three officers were equipped with body mounted cameras at the time, however only two of the officers had their cameras recording during the events of the shooting. The last two officers responding to the scene also had their cruiser camera footage rolling as they drove into the parking lot. All this footage as well as a high-definition laser scan of the scene post-incident were provided for us to work with.

Knott Laboratory started by aligning all the video footage and audio correctly in time to one another, so everything would be in the correct time space. We then proceeded to use the scientific process of videogrammetry to calibrate and establish the 3D positions of the body

cameras and cruiser camera against the site laser scan. From these camera matches, this provided us with the officers' positions throughout the event. In the instances where we did not have footage from one officer, we matched a digital surrogate model against the other footage to provide their location. We matched what we could see of the suspect coming through the door to get his position and used a correctly timed motion capture to estimate the rest of his motion, which was not captured in the footage.



*Body camera footage matched to site laser scan to display area outside the camera's field of view*

The deciding factors in this case were if the officers used excessive force in responding to the scene. With our findings, we determined there was only two seconds between when they gave the verbal command to drop the saw and when they began shooting. Each officer was over 15 feet away from the suspect when the shooting began. The suspect was walking with the pruning saw down at his side well under the average walking speed, while the officers were running towards him. These conclusions helped lead to a large settlement in the case of \$1.25 million dollars.