

3 Killed, 11 Wounded in Philadelphia as String of Mass Shootings Continues

Gunfire killed three people and wounded at least 11 others in a popular downtown Philadelphia entertainment district late Saturday night, authorities said.

Police officers were patrolling the area on South Street in downtown Philadelphia when they heard multiple gunshots and witnessed several suspects firing into a large crowd just before midnight, Police Inspector D. F. Pace said during a news conference.

An officer shot at one of the suspects from about 30 feet (9 meters) away, but it is unclear if the suspect was hit, Pace said.

Included in the dead was a 14-year-old girl.

"You can imagine there were hundreds of individuals just enjoying South Street, as they do every single weekend, when this shooting broke out," Pace said.

Two men and a woman were among those killed in the shooting, he said. Their names were not made public by authorities. Thomas Jefferson University Hospital spokesperson Damien Woods said of the 10 patients who came to the hospital, three were dead, six were in stable condition and one had been discharged.

Two handguns were recovered, including one with an extended magazine, police said. No arrests have been made.

South Street is known for its entertainment venues and night life with multiple bars, restaurants and businesses. Surveillance video from a local business posted by WTXF-TV

showed scores of people milling about on the sidewalks and in the street who then suddenly began to flee en masse as the gunfire began.

Pace said police expect to be able to gather “a lot of video surveillance footage” from the many businesses along the street later in the day to try to identify suspects.

Mayor Jim Kenney called the shooting “beyond devastating.”

“Once again, we see lives senselessly lost and those injured in yet another horrendous, brazen and despicable act of gun violence,” he said in a statement Sunday morning. “My heart is with the family, friends, loved ones of those lost or injured, and with everyone impacted by this terrible tragedy. “

Kenney said the surge in gun violence in the city and across the nation “makes me not just heartbroken, but angry.” He said, however, fighting it would be “an uphill battle” without measures to address the “availability and ease of access to firearms.”

Eric Walsh, closing up the outdoor seating area of a bar along the block, told The Philadelphia Inquirer that the scene was “chaos.” He said he saw a young woman collapse to the ground on the corner.

Iowa Church Shooting

Congregants at an Iowa church are mourning the loss of two young members after a gunman opened fire on them Thursday evening in the church’s parking lot. The shooting happened at Cornerstone Church in Ames as people gathered for a college ministry program.

Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald said the gunman planned that attack, however, the casualties could have been far greater had he come inside the church, the *Des Moines Register* reports.

“There was over 80 students in the auditorium at Bible study,

and if he'd have found his way inside the church with that intent, it would've been much more tragic than what we had today," Fitzgerald said. "He went right into action when he got there from all indications. I think that's pretty evident that he was there for that purpose."

The suspect shot and killed 22-year-old Eden Mariah Montang and 21-year-old Vivian Renee Flores, then turned the gun on himself.

In a tweet, Gov. Kim Reynolds, R-Iowa, asked Iowans to pray for the Cornerstone Church, the community of Ames and the victims' family members. The Iowa church held a prayer service Friday to remember and honor the victims. {eo}

Portions of this story © 2022 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Portions of this story reprinted with permission from . Copyright © 2022 The Christian Broadcasting Network Inc. All rights reserved.

Follow breaking news like this on our new platform, CHARISMA PLUS.