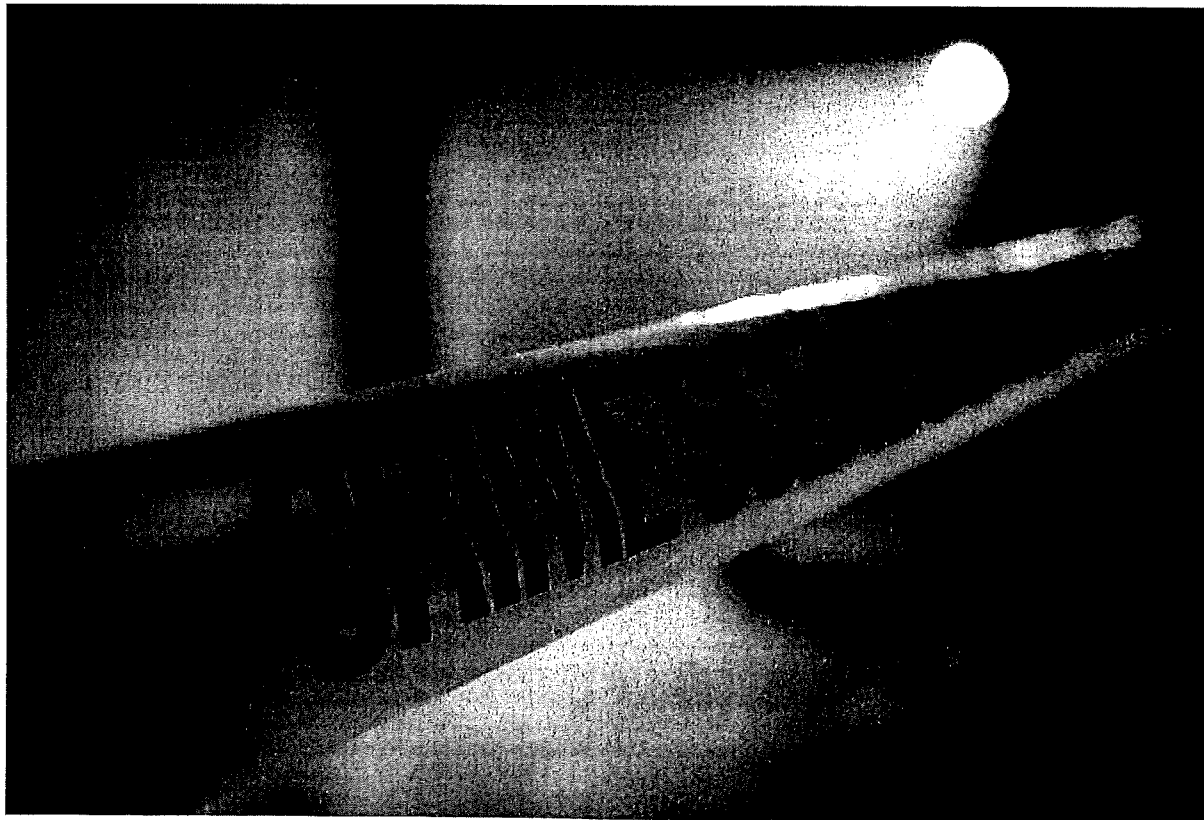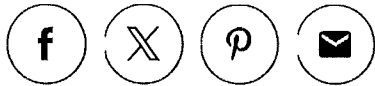CRIME

4-Year-Old Accidentally Shoots 2-Year-Old in Minnesota

The 4-year-old shot their younger sibling after reportedly finding a loaded gun in the back seat of a vehicle

By **Angel Saunders**   Published on October 17, 2023 08:57PM EDT

(**f**) (X) ($\mathcal{P}$) (✉)

crime scene tape. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

According to the Martin County Sheriff's Office, a 4-year-old child fired a loaded weapon at their sibling over the weekend in what is believed to be an accidental incident.
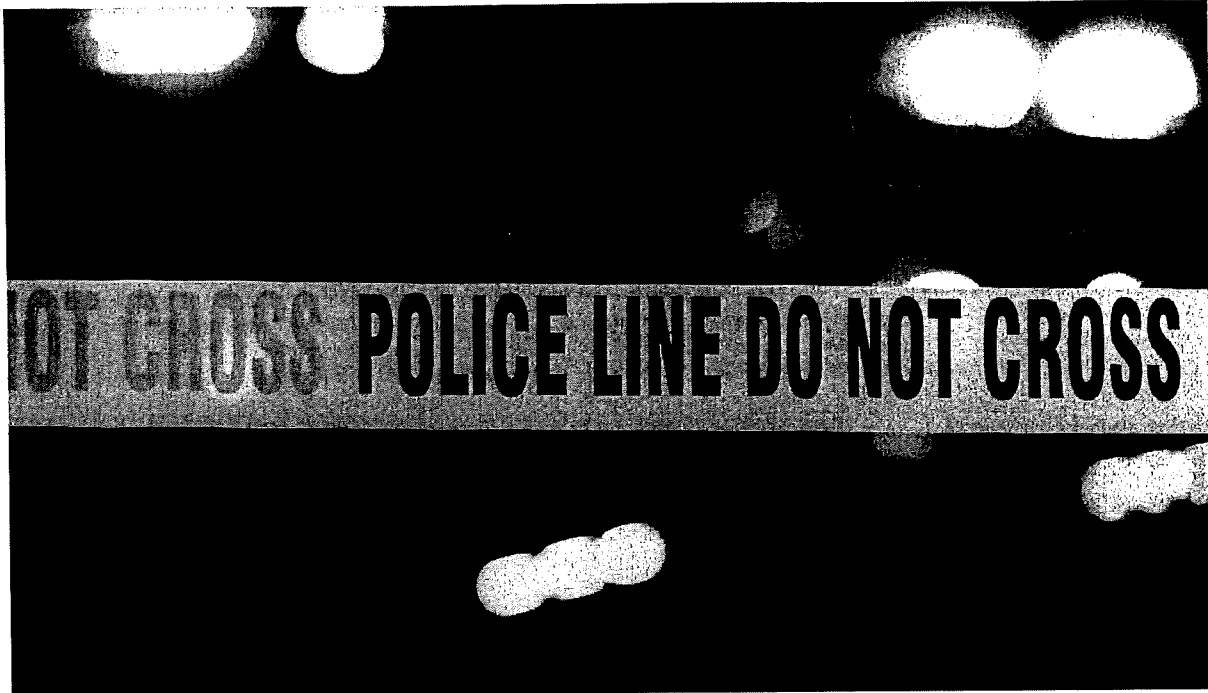
RELATED: 5-Year-Old Ga. Girl Is Killed in Thanksgiving 'Accidental Shooting' by 3-Year-Old Relative

Deputies were called to the scene just before 10:30 a.m. on Sunday after responding to a call placed from a vehicle in the 1300 block of 130th Ave, NBC affiliate news station Kare 11 stated.

Multiple outlets reported that the 4-year-old allegedly found the firearm in the backseat of the vehicle before shooting their younger sibling. When officials received the call about the incident, the driver was en route toward Fairmount to receive medical assistance for the young child.

In a news release shared by the sheriff's office, authorities stated that deputies met the motorist near the 1800 block of 120th Street where they attempted to render aid before the child was airlifted to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

accident or crime scene cordon tape. PHOTO: GETTY

MPR News added that the 2-year-old was sitting in the backseat with the older child when they were struck.

Martin County Chief Deputy Corey Klanderud confirmed to KARE 11 that the individual who made the call to first responders was the children's parent. Klanderud did not specify with the outlet whether or not the loaded gun belonged to the adult.

As of Tuesday morning, the sheriff's office had not received updates on the child's condition. If criminal charges are filed, they will come from the Martin County Attorney's Office.

No other information was immediately available.

RELATED: 'I Got My Mom's Gun Last Night': Mother of Boy, 6, Who Shot Va. Teacher Pleads Guilty to Child Neglect

Just last month, a man in Florida was charged after a toddler he was watching shot herself with a handgun that he allegedly left sitting out.

According to an arrest report obtained by Local 10 News, Young was watching the relative and told police that "he momentarily left his gun unattended on the couch because he was excited about a touchdown."

Police Cruiser Lights

Police Cruiser Lights. PHOTO: © GETTY IMAGES

Additionally, WSVN added that the toddler needed surgery to reattach her finger after the injury. The little girl was transported to Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Southwest Miami-Dade for the procedure.

"It could've been worse than this. I don't appreciate it at all," the child's grandmother, Robin Fuller, told the outlet.

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He was held at Miami-Dade Corrections & Rehabilitation Center and also faced a charge of battery by a detainee on a visitor or other detainee, for allegedly hitting another inmate, court records showed.

For more information on safe firearm storage and the most effective ways to protect children from unsecured firearms, visit BeSMARTforkids.org.

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Hinckley man charged after 3-year-old fatally shot himself

kare11.com/article/news/local/courts-news/father-charged-with-manslaughter-after-3-year-old-dies-in-gun-incident/89-5ec1d19d-32f3-4c21-8785-eb72404f23e9

Courts

Father charged with manslaughter after 3-year old dies in gun incident

Prosecutors say the boy shot himself after finding a loaded gun lying on top of a gun safe in Roy Dean Pauza-Moore's bedroom.

Author: Dana Thiede

Published: 8:31 AM CDT August 15, 2023

Updated: 8:41 AM CDT August 15, 2023

PINE CITY, Minn. — A Hinckley man is charged with manslaughter and a host of additional charges after his 3-year-old son fatally shot himself with a loaded gun.

Court documents filed in Pine County lay out the allegations against 26-year-old Roy Dean Pauza-Moore in his son's death, which occurred in the family home on Aug. 8. Charges include second-degree manslaughter, child endangerment and negligent storage of firearms.

Pine County sheriff's squads were dispatched to a home on the 500 block of 1st St. SW just after 9 p.m. that day on a report of a 3-year-old child who had shot himself in the head. A sergeant arrived at the home and was met by a man later identified as Pauza-Moore, who told him the child was upstairs inside a bedroom. That sergeant ran inside the home and into the bedroom, where he met Pauza-Moore's roommate who said, "He's gone."

The boy was pronounced dead at 9:26 p.m. The criminal complaint says a 9mm SIG Sauer handgun was located in the bedroom with the child. An autopsy later ruled he died of a gunshot wound to the head.

During interviews, the defendant reportedly told investigators that he was downstairs playing video games on the main floor of the home while his son was watching videos on his cell phone upstairs in his father's room. At one point he told police he and his roommate heard a thump, followed by a gunshot. Pauza-Moore said the two ran upstairs and found the child laying between the bed and the north wall of the room bleeding, with the handgun on the floor next to him.

Investigators say Pauza-Moore admitted the 9mm was loaded and sitting on top of an unlocked gun safe while the child watched a show on the cell phone.

In addition to the loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun, law enforcement reports finding two additional firearms in Pauza-Moore's bedroom inside a closet. One was an AR-15 style semi-automatic rifle that was unloaded, while the second was a loaded 12 gauge pump shotgun that had a round in the chamber. The closet was unlocked and open, with the firearms at floor level, according to court documents.

Three handguns and two rifles were located in the roommate's bedroom.

Sheriff's investigators also spoke with the defendant's wife, who moved out of the home in June when she and Pauza-Moore decided to separate. She reportedly said there was a gun safe in the home but the defendant "never used it," adding that she told him his guns needed to be locked up and out of reach of the children.

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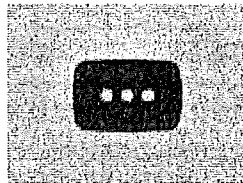
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7-year-old shoots, seriously injures older brother in Brooklyn Park: Police

By Katie Wermus | Updated August 29, 2023 11:20am CDT | Crime and Public Safety | FOX 9 |

BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. (FOX 9) - A 7-year-old boy shot his brother in the hea
late Monday night in Brooklyn Park, according to police.

The Brooklyn Park Police Department said officers responded to a shooting on
the 7500 block of Fremont Avenue North around 10:40 p.m. and found a 9-year-
old with a gunshot wound to the head.

Officers rendered aid to the boy, who they described as "conscious and alert." He
was transported to a local hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.
Police said the child remains hospitalized in stable condition as of Tuesday
morning and is "undergoing testing to determine the extent of the injuries."

Police said preliminary information suggests the boy's 7-year-old brother found a
handgun inside a bedroom in the residence and had been handling the firearm
when it went off, striking the 9-year-old. Authorities did not say who owned the
firearm.

Police said the shooting remains under investigation.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, at least 470 children 11 years old and
under have been shot and injured in the United States so far this year.