



Critical Incident Review

Brief Overview

This note covers [law enforcement incident analysis](#) and was created from the [April 9, 2026, W Brian Avenue Porterville, CA- Critical Incident Release](#) YouTube video. It offers a concise breakdown of the April 9, 2026 critical incident, highlighting the timeline, involved agencies, SWAT equipment, suspect actions, and the legal review of use-of-force.

Key Points

- Timeline of the incident from 1 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.
- Coordination between Tulare County Sheriff's Office and Kern County SWAT teams.
- **SWAT vehicles** (BearCat, Rook) and their role in the engagement.
- Post-incident investigation, use-of-force policy, and personnel status.

Incident Overview

- **Date & Time:** April 9 2026, ≈ 1:00 p.m.
- **Location:** 1700 block of West Bryan Avenue, Porterville, California
- **Involved Parties:**
 - **Tulare County Sheriff's Office (TCSO)** deputies
 - **Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) SWAT** team
 - **Suspect:** David Morales, 59 years old

“Critical incident” – an event requiring immediate, coordinated response by multiple law-enforcement agencies due to the presence of an armed and potentially dangerous individual.

Timeline of Events

Time (approx.)	Event	Agency/Actor
1:00 p.m.	SWAT team dispatched to assist TCSO	KCSO SWAT
Early contact	Deputies encounter suspect with a rifle;	TCSO

	shooting ensues; a TCSO deputy is killed	
1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	Evacuation and negotiation efforts; suspect continues shooting from inside residence	KCSO SWAT & allied agencies
5:30 p.m.	Suspect fires at Rook vehicle, penetrating armor	David Morales
5:35 p.m.	Suspect exits through window, flees to backyard; BearCat moves in to locate him	KCSO SWAT
5:40 p.m.–5:50 p.m.	Multiple engagements: BearCat runs over suspect, suspect fires at vehicle, additional shots strike driver side & undercarriage	KCSO SWAT
Post-engagement	Suspect observed manipulating firearm and reaching for a handgun; final use of force applied	KCSO SWAT

Law Enforcement Response

SWAT Equipment

Vehicle	Primary Role	Notable Features
BearCat	Armored transport & deadly-force platform	ballistic-glass windows, reinforced armor, ability to run over suspects
Rook	Armored access & breaching	enhanced maneuverability, obstacle removal, armor plating (penetrated by suspect's rifle)

BearCat – an armored vehicle used during critical incidents to provide safe transport of personnel and to serve as a platform for applying deadly force when necessary.

Rook – an armored vehicle designed for accessing inaccessible areas, removing obstacles, and breaching during incidents involving barricaded or armed subjects.

Suspect Action

- Armed with a **high-powered rifle** (used to shoot at both deputies and SWAT vehicles).
- **Penetrated Rook's armor plating**, compromising ballistic glass.
- Escaped through a residence window, took cover in **thick backyard brush**, lying prone with rifle aimed at the BearCat driver.
- Fired at **driver side window** and **undercarriage** of the BearCat; vehicle struck a tree while pursuing.
- At one point, was **manipulating a firearm** and reaching for a handgun in his waistband.

Use of Force Details

BearCat Engagement

1. **First run-over:** BearCat repositioned, accelerated, struck suspect under a tree; suspect fired, damaging driver side window.
2. **Second engagement:** Deputies backed up, re-engaged; suspect still armed, attempted to retrieve handgun.
3. **Third run-over:** Final use of force; suspect was run over a second time, ending the active threat.

Rook Engagement

- Suspect's rifle **penetrated the Rook's armor**; Rook operator withdrew to front of residence before SWAT transitioned to BearCat.

Evidence & Media

- **Body-worn camera footage** (two perspectives: inside BearCat and inside Rook).

Note: Body-camera does not capture everything the deputy sees, and vice-versa.

- **Thermal drone footage** showing suspect climbing out of the window, taking cover, and the final use-of-force actions (no audio).
- **Photos of the scene** and a **map of the location** (not reproduced here).

Investigation & Legal Process

Agencies Involved

Agency	Role
Visalia Police Department	Lead investigative agency for TCSO-related shooting
KCSO Detectives	Coordinated concurrent use-of-force investigation
KCSO Incident Review Board	Reviewed use of force on May 12 2026; determined actions were within policy
Tulare County District Attorney's Office	Receives final criminal review of the investigation

Policy on Deadly Force

"A peace officer is justified in using deadly force only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury."

- Evaluation is **from the perspective of a reasonable officer** at the time, not with hindsight.
- **Totality of circumstances** includes the need for quick judgment during rapidly evolving threats.

Personnel Status

- **Deputy Chad Clark** (KCSO) placed on routine critical-incident leave pending investigation completion.

Contact Information

- General tips or information: [661-861-3110](tel:661-861-3110) (Kern County Sheriff's Office)
- Anonymous or witness reports: [661-322-4040](tel:661-322-4040) (Kern Secret Witness line)