



FDSA
FRESNO DEPUTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION



Deputy Sheriff Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller ***Santa Cruz Sheriff's Department***

EOW: June 6, 2020

Age: 38 **Year of Service:** 14 years **Cause:** Gunfire **Suspect:** In-custody

Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller was shot and killed on June 6, 2020 as he and other deputies investigated reports of a suspicious vehicle in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Deputies had originally responded to reports of a suspicious vehicle that contained guns and bomb-making materials in the area of Jameson Creek in the Boulder Creek. As deputies arrive at the scene, they observed the van, matching the description, driving away. Deputies followed the van to a home on Waldeberg Drive in the Ben Lomond area. The van pulled into the driveway and the suspect immediately engaged the deputies with gunfire and improvised explosive devices. The suspect set the deputies up for an ambush.

Sergeant Gutzwiller was killed and the other deputy was wounded. The subject then carjacked a vehicle and fled the area. He was located a short time later and engaged officers in another shootout. A California Highway Patrol officer and the subject were both wounded before the man was taken into custody. The other deputy and CHP officer are in stable condition.

Sergeant Gutzwiller had served with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office for 14 years. He is survived by his expectant wife and young child.

1360 Van Ness Avenue Fresno, California 93721
(559) 268-3372 FAX 441-8624 email address: eric.schmidt@fresnodsa.org