

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office and the Columbia County major crimes team is investigating a shooting that occurred west of Rainier last night.

William M. Temple, a 29-year-old male victim was taken by Lifeflight helicopter to OHSU Hospital following the incident. Investigators do not have a suspect at this time.

The shooting occurred prior to a call to the Columbia 911 dispatch center at 11:23 p.m. advising that shots had been heard in the vicinity of the Price Road Trailer Park. Deputies responding to the scene learned a shooting victim had been taken to St. John Hospital in Longview. The victim was subsequently flown to OHSU Hospital with apparent gunshot wounds.

"We responded to the scene and called out the Critical Incident Response Team and the Columbia County Major Crimes team to help us secure the scene and begin the investigation," Sheriff Jeff Dickerson said. "We have not at this time identified the shooter or shooters, but are tracking down leads in the investigation.

"In addition to major crimes team and CIRT, St. Helens Police, Rainier, Clatskanie, Columbia City, Scappoose, the Oregon State Police and Vernonia Police departments also responded to assist. Columbia 911 dispatched a tactical dispatcher to the command post and the Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District responded to assist, as well," Dickerson said.