

Martin

COUNTY

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PORT ST. LUCIE

Officials: Man, 78, kills wife, 21, then self

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PORT ST. LUCIE— A 78-year-old man shot and killed his 21-year-old wife, then set their home on fire, before turning a pistol on himself early Saturday morning, according to Port St. Lucie police.

Police received two 911 calls shortly after 1 a.m. and went to the 1400 block of S.W. Kamchatka Avenue, said police spokesman Officer Tom Nichols. Officers arrived to find the front door ajar and the man dead inside the home, behind the door.

Nichols said officers also found the woman dead in a back bedroom the home, which had interior smoke damage from a fire set with gasoline.

"Police suspect this is another murder-suicide here in Port St. Lucie," Nichols said. He was referring to a Sept. 9 incident on Kilpatrick Avenue, in which police said Robert Fein, 54, shot and killed his 44-year-old wife, Sharon, before critically wounding himself. The Feins reportedly had been going through a divorce.

Police would not identify the couple Saturday, pending notification of next of kin.

Nor would they confirm that a 4-year-old daughter of the deceased woman was taken from the home by a neighbor.

However, Steve Tango, a neighbor two doors away, said his wife, Shannon, woke him about 1 a.m. to say that their neighbor had phoned and asked that she remove the girl from his home. Tango said his wife took the girl to their house and also phoned police.



ERIC HASERT/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Port St. Lucie Police crime scene and St. Lucie County Fire District investigators examine the scene of a suspected murder-suicide at a home on Kamchatka Avenue on Saturday.

Nichols confirmed that 911 received two calls about the incident, one from a neighbor and the other from the male victim and suspect himself.

"A white male called 911 and said he had just killed his wife and was going to kill himself," Nichols said. "Before he turned the gun on himself, he set the house on fire."

Nichols said the woman had been shot in the head and the man, whose body was partly burned, appeared to have shot himself in the mouth.

A revolver was found at the scene.

The shootings were still being investigated Saturday, and the bodies had been removed from the residence, Nichols said.

"We're looking at this as a domestic violence incident," he added.

Saturday, Tango said he had no indication that the couple were having problems. The man and his 4-year-old stepdaughter were among guests at the Tangos' home Friday night for grilled hamburgers, he said.

"We had three couples over, with kids playing," Tango said. "Something went wrong between 10 o'clock and 1 o'clock."

Saturday, the single-story house was surrounded by yellow crime scene tape. Three police cars, two crime scene vans, a police mobile operations center and a St. Lucie County Fire District pickup truck were parked in front.

There was no fire damage visible from outside the home, where dozens of ceramic elf figurines and artificial flowers lined the driveway and front of the residence.