



Bates County Sheriff's Office

Chad Anderson, Sheriff

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On December 16, 2015 Detectives from the Bates County Sheriff's Office went to a residence located at 517 E Pine in Rich Hill, MO to attempt to serve an arrest warrant. The warrant for Matthew Ray Ward (DOB 3/3/1979) was for failure to appear on 4 counts of Sexual Assault, 1 count of Forcible Sodomy and 1 count of Rape.

Once Detectives were given permission to enter the premises, Ward fled to a back bedroom of the residence and entered a crawl space that went under the house. Ward was armed with a knife and was threatening to harm himself. Deputies negotiated with Ward for approximately 5 hours. At approximately 6 pm a member of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team was able to disarm Ward while he was underneath the house. At that point other members of the team were able to extract Ward from underneath the house without anyone being injured.

"Situations like this are why I find it most important to offer specialized training for our Law Enforcement. Our priority was to ensure the safety of the area Citizens by containing the wanted and armed subject" Says Sheriff Anderson. "Our next priority was to bring this situation to a peaceful end by taking this subject into custody without anyone being injured. I am proud of the work that the Deputies did in Rich Hill yesterday and every day we get a chance to serve the Citizens."

The Bates County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Rich Hill Police Department, Rich Hill Fire Department, Bates County Sheriff's Posse and the Bates County Memorial Hospital EMS.

Matthew Ward is being held at the Bates County Jail on the above warrant. The warrant has a bond amount of \$5000.00 cash only. Additional charges are being sent to the Bates County Prosecutor for review.

