



OXNARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

DATE: May 7, 2026

SUBJECT: Oxnard Police release *Critical Incident Community Briefing* video of officer-involved shooting incident, and additional information

LOCATION: 5000 Block of Saviers Rd., Oxnard

SUSPECT: Anastacio Meneses, Hispanic Male, 41-year-old Oxnard Resident

CONTACT: Cody Collet, Commander

(805) 385-7620 | cody.collet@oxnardpd.org (after hours)

The Oxnard Police Department has released a *Critical Incident Community Briefing* video of the officer-involved shooting incident that occurred at approximately 12:10 P.M. on Monday, April 20, 2026.

The public can view the *Critical Incident Community Briefing* video on the Oxnard Police Department's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3jgojnMPJI>. The link to the *Critical Incident Community Briefing* video will also be available on the Oxnard Police Department's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts.

At approximately 12:10 P.M. on April 20, 2026, Oxnard police officers responded to several calls for service regarding a male subject, later identified as Anastacio Meneses, in possession of a machete and swinging it in the area of Saviers Road and Pleasant Valley Road. Once officers arrived on scene, they made contact with Meneses, who was inside a restaurant in the 5000 block of Saviers Rd. Officers were able to evacuate several patrons; however, two of the restaurant employees were unable to evacuate.

Officers verbally engaged Meneses in an effort to gain his compliance. Officers continued to give Meneses instructions and warnings to de-escalate the situation. Officers gave Meneses commands to stand up, move away from the machete, and exit

the restaurant. Meneses stood up, then quickly lowered his hands, grabbed the machete, flipped over a table, and raised the machete. Officer Brandon Castillo fired his department-issued handgun three times, striking Meneses and causing him to fall to the floor. Meneses quickly regained his footing and charged at the officers with the machete raised. Officer Castillo fired an additional three rounds, striking Meneses, causing him to fall to the ground a second time. Meneses remained in possession of the machete.

Officers continued to verbally engage with Meneses for over two minutes in an attempt for him to discard the machete and crawl towards officers so they could provide first-aid. Meneses did not comply with officers' commands, and K9 Officer James Kitka deployed his police service dog (PSD) to apprehend him. Meneses attacked PSD "Al" with the machete, cutting "Al's" upper lip. Meneses was ultimately disarmed by officers and placed into handcuffs.

Officers immediately transitioned to providing medical first aid to Meneses. Emergency Medical Services personnel arrived quickly and provided life-saving aid to Meneses. Meneses was transported by ambulance to Ventura County Medical Center, where he was treated for several gunshot wounds to his arms, hand, and torso area.

No police officers were injured during the incident. PSD "Al" sustained minor injuries and was later treated at a veterinary clinic and has since returned to duty.

At the time of this news release, all officers have been cleared to return to service in their respective assignments.

At the time of this news release, Meneses is being treated at a medical facility in Ventura County. Upon his release from treatment, Meneses is facing several criminal charges, including assault with a deadly weapon, felony assault of a police service dog, and exhibiting a deadly weapon with the intent to resist arrest by a police officer.

Officer Brandon Castillo is the only officer who discharged his firearm during the incident. Officer Brandon Castillo has been employed by the Oxnard Police Department since March 2024. Officer Castillo has not been involved in a previous officer-involved shooting incident.

Officer James Kitka has been employed by the Oxnard Police Department since October 2013. Officer Kitka has not been involved in a previous officer-involved shooting incident.

The Oxnard Police Department's Major Crimes Unit, in conjunction with the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, is investigating the incident. Detectives are requesting that anyone who might have witnessed the incident or has additional information contact Detective Adam Aguilar at (805) 385-7680 or adam.aguilar@oxnardpd.org.