

## **Escape stuns medical crew - Police search for prisoner who stole an ambulance at DMC with two technicians and a patient on board.**

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Author: The Detroit News ; Norman Sinclair and Santiago Esparza

DETROIT -- As operations manager for the Medic One Ambulance Service of Taylor, Michael Kowalsky is always apprehensive that his crews could find themselves in tense situations.

However, early Wednesday morning, he was stunned when one of his technicians called to tell him her ambulance had been carjacked -- with a patient and two other technicians on board.

"I'm just very thankful that everyone is OK and it turned out well," Kowalsky said of the hair-raising incident in which a Detroit police prisoner at the Detroit Medical Center overpowered two police officers, grabbed a Glock handgun from one of the officers, forced his way out of the hospital and carjacked Kowalsky's ambulance and crew as they pulled up with a patient.

"They didn't know what was going on. All of a sudden a guy with a gun ordered our driver to get out of the vehicle and the man jumped in and drove off," Kowalsky said.

Police identified the gunman as 23-year-old **Deandre** DeShon-Russell **Riley** of Detroit, who has had several brushes with the law and is on probation for carrying a concealed weapon. He remained on the run Wednesday night after abandoning the ambulance at Canfield and Third in the Wayne State University district, not far from the hospital on St. Antoine.

Police had arrested **Riley** at 1 a.m. driving a stolen car on Livernois and he was booked and locked up at the Western District headquarters on West Seven Mile. Around 6 a.m., he complained that he was ill and police took him to Detroit Receiving Hospital. As the two officers were handcuffing **Riley** to a bed, he jumped the officers, grabbed a gun from one of their holsters and forced his way out of the building using a clerk as a shield.

**Riley** released the female clerk when he saw his chance to escape in the ambulance.

Kowalsky said a patient who was transported from home with a nonthreatening condition was in the back of the vehicle tended by one of the company's top emergency medical technicians and a trainee.

A Wayne County Sheriff's deputy in the parking lot fired a shot at **Riley** but missed. The bullet did not hit anyone.

As the vehicle roared away, the trainee made a break for the back door and rolled out of the speeding vehicle, said Kowalsky.

"She felt her life was in danger and made the decision to go out the back door," said Kowalsky. She escaped serious injury.

Kowalsky said the veteran technician who chose to remain with the patient is one of the company's best performers.

"She didn't panic. She peeked her head up and told him the vehicle was being tracked and police knew exactly where it was," Kowalsky said.

**Riley** stopped the ambulance at Canfield and Third and escaped on foot. The technician took the wheel and drove the ambulance and patient back to the hospital, Kowalsky said.

The technicians and the ambulance driver were unavailable for interviews.

"They were pretty much wiped out after their shift and went home to rest," Kowalsky said.

Sgt. Erin Stevens Bell said officers were combing the Canfield-Third area in the Wayne State district Wednesday night. Police interviewed cab drivers and city bus drivers but none of them picked **Riley** up.

Police are not sure if **Riley** still has the Glock but they consider him to be dangerous.

As a precaution, police locked down three public schools in the area before allowing the students to go home.

A neighbor of **Riley** said that while he sometimes acted odd, she did not consider him threatening.

Robin Daughtery, 31, who said **Riley** sometimes stayed upstairs in her building in the 9800 block of Woodside, would sometimes go out into the street and yell and run about.

"This is a shock," she said. "He was cool with me. Everybody has their own problems. That was him. He wasn't a bad guy," she said.

Anyone with information is asked to call (800) SPEAKUP or (313) 596-2300.

Caption: Police said **Riley**, who is on probation for carrying a concealed weapon, is dangerous.

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