

BOY , 11 , DIES OF GUNSHOT WOUND TO CHEST

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A **11** -year-old **boy** died Tuesday afternoon **of a gunshot wound to the chest** that occurred while he and a friend were apparently playing with a handgun, Detroit Police said.

The dead **boy** 's friend, 12, was being detained Tuesday night while police tried **to** sort out the shooting, which is thought **to** have occurred about 2:30 p.m. on Patricia Street in southwest Detroit, a police spokesman said.

"We assume it was accidental. Until we have information that conflicts, we're going with that assumption. We don't know exactly who pulled the trigger," Detroit Police spokesman James Tate said as the residential street was cordoned off.

Tate said authorities don't know why the **boys** weren't in school.

What police do know is that immediately after he was shot, the stricken **boy** ran **to** his home in the 1300 block **of** Patricia, where he collapsed. The **boy** 's mother immediately drove him **to** the nearby River Rouge police station, Tate said.

The **boy** was taken **to** Wyandotte General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, Tate said.

River Rouge Police notified Detroit Police **of** the incident, Tate said.

Tate said Detroit Police are investigating **to** learn who owns the gun - which they recovered - and how the **boys** obtained it.

The neighborhood is in an industrial area, where backyards face I-75 and the horizon is Marathon Oil's Detroit refinery.

On the lawn **of** the dead **boy** 's home on Tuesday, near wads **of** yellow police caution tape, lay a bike.

A few doors down, Anthony Thomas, **11** , stood on his porch with his father, Neal Thomas, 42, and remembered his pal.

"He was my best friend," said Anthony, his eyes red from crying. "Today, when I got home, my dad tells me he got killed."

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked **to** call Detroit Police at 313-596-2260.

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