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CUMBRIA
CONSTABULARY
SAFER STRONGER CUMBRIA

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

PRESS RELEASE

Issued at 1.38pm on Wednesday 2 June 2010

Cumbria Constabulary is using every armed police patrol in Cumbria to apprehend an armed man suspected of shooting a number of people in West Cumbria.

A large scale search was launched immediately as soon as reports of shots fired on Duke Street, Whitehaven, were received at 10:35 this morning. The response includes armed vehicle and foot patrols, officers from Cumbria Roads Policing Unit, police dogs units and air support from Lancashire. He is being tracked both on land and by air as police work to apprehend him. He is currently believed to be in the Boot area in Eskdale Valley.

A gold command has been set up in Police Headquarters in Penrith to manage the incident.

The suspect is believed to be fifty-two year old Derrick Bird, of Rowrah near Frizington who has abandoned his car in the Boot area and is now believed to be travelling by foot. Police who are in pursuit of him are urging members of the public in the Boot area to shelter indoors until further notice.

He was last seen heading south in the Central Lakes direction. He may have abandoned the car and be proceeding on foot. Police are currently working to apprehend him and advising members of the public in West and Central Lakes areas to go indoors and stay there until further notice.

Officers are also asking walkers and tourists in that area to be vigilant, take extra care and head indoors if at all possible. If any members of the public see Derrick Bird, please do not approach him and contact them immediately on 999.

We can confirm that a number of people have been injured who are being treated by ambulance crews. There are a number of fatalities and police are working to identify the individuals and inform relatives.

End