Orlando, FL Sentinel Orlando Met Area

Tuesday

D 265,365

SEP 3, 2002



Orange man dies after hits by deputy's stun gun

After a fight, Frederick Webber was combative with officers, a Volusia sheriff's spokesman said.

By SUSAN JACOBSON

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

ORANGE CITY — An east Orange County man died Sunday night after a deputy sheriff trying to break up a fight shocked him twice with a stungun, authorities said Monday.

Frederick Webber, 44, was visiting friends at the KOA campground when a fistfight broke out Sunday and Volusia County deputies were called, sheriff's spokesman Gary Davidson said.

When deputy sheriffs arrived about 9:45 p.m., witnesses said they

had tried to resuscitate Webber, who was on the ground and not breathing, officials said.

Webber woke up and "became combative" with deputies, according to a news release. Deputy Sheriff Jeff Schoenfarber zapped Webber with his stun gun to subdue him to handcuff him, Davidson said. After the handcuffs were on, Webber stopped breathing again, officials said.

Paramedics were called, but Webber was pronounced dead at 10:06 p.m. Sunday at the campground at 1440 E. Minnesota Ave.

Webber's wife was receiving friends at her Union Park-area home Monday and would not comment.

Schoenfarber, 30, on the job since May 2001, will not be put on leave, Davidson said.

"This is not use of deadly force," Davidson said. "It's use of force." The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating as is usual in such cases. Davidson said agents would sort out the circumstances surrounding the death, including whether Webber was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

They will determine on which part of the body Webber was hit and whether he had a medical condition that could have contributed to his death.

Several men have died after being hit with stun guns by Florida law-enforcement officers. One, Gordon Randall Jones, 37, of Windermere, died in July after being shocked a dozen times by an Orange County deputy sheriff after Jones refused to obey commands.

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