



**Blaze Catania**  
Chief of Police

## **DEPARTMENT OF POLICE EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP**

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# **News Release**

Incident: Barricaded Subject  
Date of Print: July 22, 2007  
P.D. Case #: 07-38353

On Saturday, July 21, 2007, at approximately 6:43 pm, the Egg Harbor Township Police communications received a call of a male beating up his pet dog. Officer Tom Rocco was the initial officer that responded, along with his partner Officer Brian Keane, to the call which was on the 200 block of Cedar Avenue in the Farmington section of the township.

The initial call was for cruelty to animals but through investigation, found out that it was a husband and wife domestic. When the officers attempted to arrest the accused, a verbal confrontation turned into an aggravated assault on the police officer by James Fitzgerald, 40 years of age, who resided at that address. A foot chase ensued and Fitzgerald fled into his residence. The situation turned into a barricaded subject situation. At approximately 8:00pm, two teams of the Atlantic County Emergency Response Team were activated.

For nearly seven hours, the Egg Harbor Township Hostage Negotiators talked by phone to Fitzgerald while the ACERT members kept the perimeter. The Negotiators were able to negotiate a peaceful surrender resulting in Fitzgerald coming out the front door. He was taken into custody without incident and transported to the police station.

As of the press release, subject was being processed at the police department.

**FOR ANY CLARIFICATION NEEDED FOR THE ABOVE NEWS RELEASE  
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