

Suspect in trooper death believed dead

by UPI

KINGSTON, N.Y. - New York state police said they believe the suspect who shot three state troopers in the Catskill Mountains region died in a house fire.

State Police said Trooper David C. Brinkerhoff, 29, was killed Wednesday while looking for the suspect, Travis D. Trim, 23, who was suspected of shooting another trooper on Tuesday, The New York Times reported.

Trim was hiding in a farmhouse in the town of Margaretville, N.Y., when the house caught fire. About 90 minutes later, authorities searched the house.

"At 7:35 p.m., we located what appears to be a badly charred body in the residence. The body was slumped in the doorway holding a rifle. We will make attempts to ID the body in the coming days," the acting superintendent of the New York State Police, Preston L. Felton, said.

"There's a possibility that our actions caused the fire," Felton said. Police had fired tear-gas canisters into the farmhouse.

Brinkerhoff was killed when he and another member of the state police Mobile Response Team, Trooper Richard G. Mattson, entered the farmhouse to help other troopers looking for Trim. Mattson was shot in the arm, police said.

The search for Trim began Tuesday when he allegedly shot Matthew Gombosi, who was trying to arrest him on suspicion of stealing a vehicle, police said, the Times reported. Gombosi was shot in the lower ribs but the Times said officials credited body armor with keeping the trooper from being seriously injured.

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