

AFTER GEORGE FLOYD

George Floyd protest turns deadly; Minneapolis mayor requests National Guard

"We can have peaceful demonstrations," Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said. "But I also have to ensure the safety of everyone in the city."

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May 27, 2020, 10:30 PM EDT / Updated May 28, 2020, 8:37 AM EDT

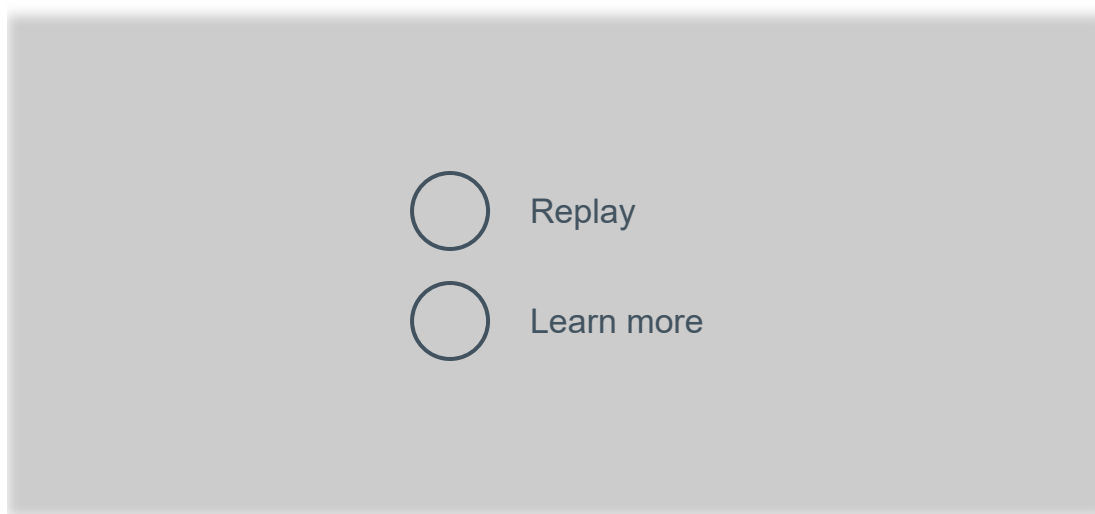
By Phil Helsel

The mayor of Minneapolis asked the state National Guard to help after the death of George Floyd escalated Wednesday night with a fire, looting, and fires and the police deployment of tear gas.



"I cannot risk the safety of innocent people and so that is what I've been sworn to uphold and that is what I am dedicated to do," Mayor Jacob Frey told NBC affiliate [KARE](#). "We can have both things. We can have peaceful demonstrations, but I also have to ensure the safety of everyone in the city."

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The [second night of](#) demonstrations near the site of Floyd's death began peacefully but grew violent as the night went on. Gov. Tim Walz late Wednesday called it an "[extremely dangerous situation](#)" and urged residents to leave the area.

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Frey pleaded with residents for calm.

"I'm imploring our city, imploring our community, imploring every one of us to keep the peace. Let's honor George Floyd's memory," Frey told KARE11 in a phone interview.

One person was in custody in the shooting death near the
Officers responded to a report of a stabbing at 9:05 p.m. a
breathing lying on the sidewalk, police said in a statement

The unidentified victim was rushed to Hennepin County M
was discovered the victim had been shot.



Multiple fires were reported, and several businesses were
assisted by officers from nearby St. Paul, state police and metro transit police.

Beyond the shooting, there were no known injuries to protesters or police, and no additional arrests, Minneapolis police spokesman John Elder said at a news conference early Thursday.

"Tonight was a different night of protesting than it was just the night before," Elder said.

A reporter for NBC affiliate KARE11 of Minneapolis who was livestreaming the protest reported that an AutoZone and Target had been looted. A Cub Foods and a Dollar Tree also showed signs of damage and looting.



— A man poses for photos in front of a fire at an AutoZone in Minneapolis.
Carlos Gonzalez / Star Tribune via AP

Video showed the AutoZone with broken windows and sparks flying. A police officer was warning people against damaging the business, saying it had been looted.



A fire broke out at the AutoZone, a fire department official confirmed Wednesday night.

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"Initially ... it was just being looted, but at some point, a fire started," Ricardo Lopez, a journalist for the Minnesota Reformer news organization, told KARE11, adding he wasn't sure how it began.

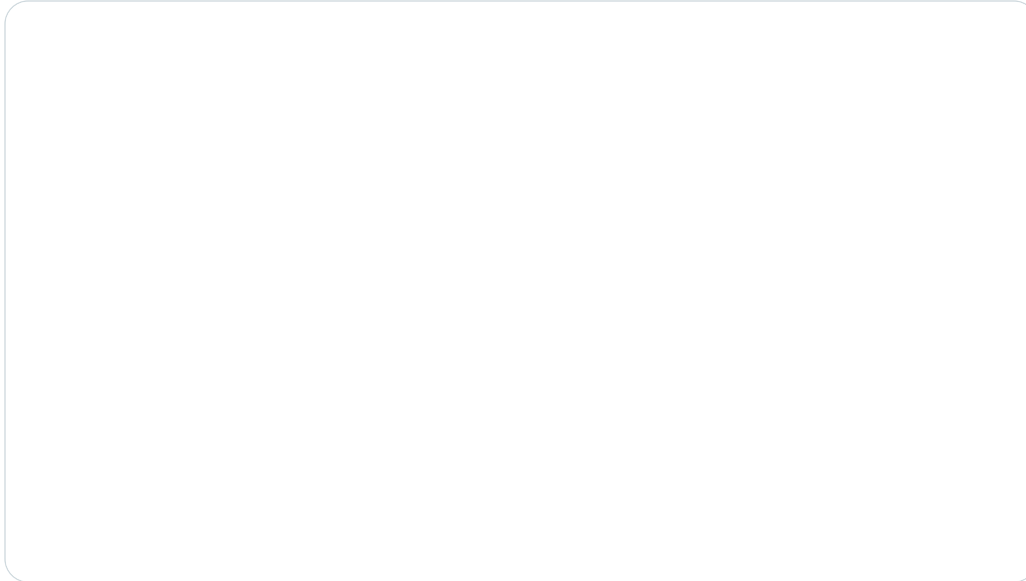
Protesters set other fires in the street.

Early Thursday, a reporter from The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) tweeted images of a housing complex construction site that appeared fully engulfed in flames and video of a liquor store that was trashed with shattered glass and boxes littering the sidewalk.



Liz Sawyer@ByLizSawyer · [Follow](#)

Housing complex construction site on 29th/26th is on the verge of collapse. Heat is so intense you can feel blocks away.



2:44 AM · May 28, 2020



510



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Elder, the police spokesman, confirmed "a large fire from an apartment building that is under construction" but he did not have a count of how many fires were burning early Thursday.

Police Chief Medaria Arradondo told the local [FOX 9 TV station](#) that he ordered the use of tear gas after violence and looting. He said that he is committed to demonstrate and most did so peacefully, but there have been acts.

Arradondo made a call for peace and patience to let investigators

"Justice historically has never come to fruition through so much violence tonight, whether it's the looting, whether it's the damage caused," Arradondo said in the FOX interview.



Protesters also gathered Wednesday evening at the suburban home of the officer seen kneeling on Floyd's neck as well as the Minneapolis home of Mike Freeman, the Hennepin County prosecutor who would make a charging decision in the case. No violence was reported in those protests.

Protests continue in Minneapolis after death of George Floyd

00:56



Hundreds of protesters also gathered in downtown Los Angeles on Wednesday, [NBC Los Angeles reported](#). At times, the demonstrators blocked traffic on the 101 freeway.

Some surrounded two California Highway Patrol vehicles and damaged them.

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CHP said when it attempted to disperse a crowd on the freeway, the crowd "surrounded" and someone broke the rear window of a patrol vehicle.

A CHP officer tried to leave, and a protester jumped on the hood of the vehicle on the roadway, officials said. That person is said to have suffered injuries.

A second CHP patrol vehicle stopped to help that man but the crowd surrounded it and had its rear window shattered and that officer also left, the CHP said.



Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, died Monday after a white Minneapolis police officer [pinned him to the ground and put his knee on his neck](#) for about eight minutes.

His detainment was captured on video, and he can be heard pleading with the officer, "Please, please, please, I can't breathe."

The four police officers involved in Floyd's detainment, which stemmed from a report of a forgery, were [fired](#) Tuesday. The officer seen with his knee on Floyd has been identified as [Derek Chauvin](#).

Minneapolis police identified the other officers as Thomas Lane, Tou Thao and J. Alexander Kueng.



— Demonstrators help a man who was sitting on a police car and during a protest to demand justice for George Floyd in downtown

Ringo H.W. Chiu / AP



The Minneapolis mayor on Wednesday [called for charges to be filed](#) against Chauvin. Police had said Floyd resisted arrest, but Frey said "I saw nothing that would signal that this kind of force was necessary."

His death is being investigated by the FBI and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Mayor Jacob Frey
@MayorFrey · [Follow](#)



Please, Minneapolis, we cannot let tragedy beget more tragedy.

The area along Lake has become unsafe. We are asking for your help in keeping the peace tonight.

Liz Navratil @LizNavratil

.@MayorFrey is urging people late tonight: "Please, please Minneapolis. We cannot let tragedy beget more tragedy. The activity around Lake and Hiawatha is now unsafe. Please, help us keep the peace. Stay safe and evacuate the area."

1:24 AM · May 28, 2020 

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Video of Floyd's death has sparked outrage, including from the apparent Democratic presidential nominee, Joe Biden, who [tweeted](#) about it on it a "tragic reminder that this was not an isolated incident, cycle of injustice that still exists in this country."

President Donald Trump also [weighed in on Wednesday](#). "and friends. Justice will be served!" he tweeted.



Family of George Floyd calls for officers to be charged with murder

02:30



Bridgett Floyd, Floyd's sister, [said on NBC's "TODAY" show](#) Wednesday morning that she wants all of the officers at the scene to be charged with murder.

"They murdered my brother. He was crying for help," she said.

The Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis, which represents the department's 800-plus rank-and file officers, asked the public not to rush to judgment before all video can be reviewed and a medical examiner's report released.

On Tuesday, [clashes broke out between police and some protesters](#) in Minneapolis, and police deployed tear gas.

"We cannot have members of our community engaging in behavior," said Arradondo, the Minneapolis police chief.

He said the vast majority of people protesting have been d



Phil Helsel



Phil Helsel is a reporter for NBC News.

The Associated Press and Minyvonne Burke contributed.

