

ShotSpotters In York Detect Weekend Shooting

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A man is recovering in the hospital after being shot several times in York City.

Police said 21-year-old Michael Crampton was shot three times in the 600 block of Salem Avenue early Sunday morning. They have made no arrests and have no suspects.

But police said it's because of the city's new gunshot detection technology that they were more quickly able to respond. According to Captain Dave Arnold with the York City Police Department, Sunday morning's incident was the first time since they've had the technology that police arrived to find someone injured.

Officials installed about 50 ShotSpotters around the city about two weeks ago. They detect the sound of gunfire and send details of the exact location to the York County 911 Center and police.

Lt. Kevin Girling with the police department said as of last week they had 30 incidents of gunfire. About two-thirds of them were never called in by residents.

"Unfortunately people get jaded," said Arnold.

The system can detect the difference between gunfire, firecrackers, fireworks, bottle rockets, helicopters, rain and even the home-run cannon at York's Sovereign Bank Stadium. When a gunshot is detected a computer at the 911 Center and the police department makes an alarm noise and a red dot shows up on a map, pinpointing the exact location of the shots. A firecracker and fireworks show up as a yellow dot.

Officials at the 911 Center said they dispatch police every time a firecracker or firework is detected because sometimes it's actually gunshots. Arnold said they're still working out some of the calibration issues.

Arnold said they also will be putting the ShotSpotter computer software in the computers of 10-12 police cruisers, so officers will be able to get the information as they're on patrol. Arnold said officers may have to adjust the way they respond. Since officers will be responding so much faster, the suspect or suspects may still be out on the street with a gun.

Meanwhile eight cameras have also been placed throughout the city. When the sound detection is activated for gunfire, the camera points in the direction of the shots and begins recording. Because the camera also records when motion is detected, police said they've made arrests for prostitution and drugs. They also arrested a wanted fugitive.