



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: April 8, 2026, around 1:00 p.m.
Incident: 2026-479356
Location: 2800 West Cactus Road
Victim: Steven Martin Salas, 32-years-old, deceased
Suspect: Romano Smith, 36-year-old, MCSO Booking #G249353

UPDATE: April 18, 2026

As this investigation unfolded, detectives were able to identify the suspect in the murder of Steven Salas. The suspect, identified as 36-year-old Romano Smith, was located, and arrested on April 17, 2026. After being interviewed Smith was booked into jail on one count of murder. The case remains an active investigation.

Sergeant Rob Scherer
Public Affairs Bureau

UPDATE: April 10, 2026

The victim in this case has been identified as 32-year-old Steven Martin Salas.

Sergeant Lorraine Fernandez
Public Affairs Bureau

Homicide Investigation

On April 8, 2026, at around 1:00 p.m., officers responded to the area of 2800 West Cactus Road regarding a report of a stabbing. When officers arrived, they found an adult male with obvious signs of trauma. Phoenix Fire personnel transported him to a nearby hospital where he later died from his injuries.

Phoenix Police Homicide Detectives responded and assumed the investigation. Preliminary information indicates that the victim and the suspect were involved in a fight before the victim was injured. The suspect left the area before officers arrived. Additional details remain part of the ongoing investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Phoenix Police Department or to call Silent Witness at 480-WITNESS or 480-TESTIGO and provide an anonymous tip. You may be eligible for a reward.

Sergeant Jen Zak
Public Affairs Bureau

