

Windsor nurse stabbed to death in hospital

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SPECIAL TO THE STAR

WINDSOR—Hôtel-Dieu Grace hospital staff are reeling after a nurse was killed in a recovery room and a physician seriously injured, in what police are calling a murder/attempted suicide here yesterday.

Lori Arlene Dupont, 36, of nearby Amherstburg, Ont., is dead of stab wounds and a staff physician — the suspect — remains unconscious and in intensive care at Hôtel-Dieu.

Details are sketchy but police say it appears the yet-unnamed doctor, called in to work on surgeries, attacked the nurse with a knife soon after she started her shift in the recovery room at 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

The suspect immediately fled. Police suspect he overdosed on a drug but are awaiting toxicology results. He was found soon after the incident, comatose, near Windsor's Caron St. pumping station.

At least one person witnessed part of the attack, police said, but, despite immediate medical treatment, Dupont died almost immediately from the multiple stab wounds.

Police say she was attacked without warning by the doctor. Investigators believe he may have brought a knife from outside the hospital.

"The officer that looked at it, to his knowledge, it didn't look like a hospital instrument, just like a regular knife" said Staff Sgt. Ed McNorton.

The doctor was found about 45 minutes later near the Detroit River after his ex-wife, whom he contacted as he fled, called 911 to say he was at the Caron station and needed medical attention. An ambulance crew and police, with guns drawn, arrived together. They found the doctor unconscious in his parked car with no visible signs of injury.

A first-degree murder charge is pending should the 50-year-old suspect recover. One account said he is an anesthesiologist.

Police have no confirmed motive for the attack but have stated the unconscious doctor is the only suspect in their homicide investigation.

There is unconfirmed speculation from co-workers that the doctor and nurse may have been romantically involved at some point.

With files from Canadian Press