

Texas: Man Was Fired Hours Before He Killed Eight People in a Shooting Rampage



Texas: The Odessa Police Department on Sunday identified the man who killed eight people and wounded 21 others in a shooting spree in West Texas. Seth Ator had been fired from his trucking job just hours before his killing rampage. Texas troopers in Midland reported that they pulled him over for failing to use his signal on Saturday afternoon, and he shot at them with an AR-type weapon and then sped away. While driving, he sprayed bullets randomly at residents and motorists. Ator then hijacked a postal truck and ditched his gold Honda, shooting at people as he made his way into Odessa about 20 miles away. Police killed him in a shootout in a theater parking lot. It's unclear what his motive was.

The Odessa Police Department on Sunday identified the man who killed seven people and wounded 22 others in a shooting spree in West Texas as Seth Ator, 36.

Ator had been fired from his trucking job just hours before his killing rampage, the New York Times reported, citing interviews with officials.

Ator was arrested in 2001 for criminal trespass and evading arrest, both misdemeanors, according to public records. Adjudication was deferred, though the details of the case were not immediately available. His record also includes a 2018 traffic citation for a federal motor carrier safety violation, according to Ector County court records.

A police booking photo from 2001 shows Seth Ator.

Ator was pulled over by Texas troopers in Midland on Saturday afternoon for failing to use his signal, police said. He then shot at them with what police described as an AR-type weapon and sped away. Driving on streets and the highway, he sprayed bullets randomly at residents and motorists, police said.

The man then hijacked a postal truck and ditched his gold Honda, shooting at people as he made his way into Odessa about 20 miles away. There, police confronted him in a movie theater parking lot and killed him in a shootout.

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