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## Montana Manhunt Expands After Bar Shooting

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Authorities in Montana have expanded their search for 45-year-old Michael Paul Brown, the suspect in a deadly shooting that left four people dead at a local bar on Friday morning. Brown remains at large and is considered armed and dangerous.

The Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest announced late Saturday that over 16 square miles of the Pintler Ranger District, including Barker Lake and surrounding areas, will be closed through August 16 to support the ongoing manhunt. The closure zone is located roughly 8 miles west of Anaconda, where the attack occurred.



Brown is accused of opening fire at the Owl Bar, located next to his home in Anaconda, at approximately 10:30 a.m. Friday. The Montana Department of Justice confirmed the victims include a bartender and three bar patrons. Their names have not been released, and no motive has been disclosed.

Search operations initially concentrated near Stumptown Road but have since shifted into forested terrain, reflecting law enforcement's belief that Brown may be hiding in the wilderness. Officials emphasized the importance of public caution and safety during the search.

The Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Law Enforcement Center stated that Brown may have altered his appearance. He was last seen on surveillance footage leaving the crime scene wearing only boxer shorts, though earlier descriptions noted a tie-dye shirt, jeans, and an orange bandana.

Police Chief Bill Sather urged residents to remain alert but not panic. "It's OK to go about your business in town, but please use caution," he said during a Saturday update. "If you see anything suspicious, please call 911."

The incident has shaken the small town of Anaconda, located about 90 miles southeast of Missoula. While no official lockdown is in place, several local businesses have voluntarily closed, and residents are being urged to stay indoors.

"This is hurting everyone," said Anaconda resident Hope Hollingsworth. "It's a heavy and intense time for our community."

Authorities continue to encourage anyone with information or sightings of Brown to contact law enforcement immediately.