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## Amalgamated guard shot dead

By Nalinee Seelal Monday, December 21 2015

**THE SEARCH was continuing by police last night for gunmen hours after an Amalgamated security guard was shot in the head and killed as he and another guard responded to an alarm triggered at the Berger Paints warehouse compound in Sea Lots.**

In the wake of the murder of the security guard, Head of Portof- Spain Division Snr Supt Johnny Abraham called on security firms to alert police when responding to alarms instead of confronting bandits and gunmen by themselves.

According to a police report, at about 3.30 pm, an alarm was triggered at the Berger Paints compound in Sea Lots with two Amalgamated Security Services Ltd guards being despatched.

On arrival at the Berger Paints compound, the guards - Estate Cpl Anthony Pierre and Estate Constable Franklin Edwards, 37, confronted the two men who were trying to force their way into the warehouse.

The burglars turned their guns on the two security guards and opened fire. Pierre was shot in the head and slumped to the ground where he died. Edwards was shot in the leg.

The burglars later escaped leaving the two guards on the ground.

A report was made to the Besson Street police.

Pierre was pronounced dead at the scene while Edwards was taken to the Port-of-Spain General Hospital where he was treated and underwent surgery to have the bullet removed.

Meanwhile, Pierre's body was removed to the Forensic Science Centre where an autopsy will be done today.

Police officers later blocked off several streets in the Beetham Gardens and parts of Sea Lots as they carried out door to door searches for the killers. But up to presstime, both gunmen remained at large.

Police are hoping that closed circuit television (CCTV) images could assist in identifying the gunmen.

Contacted for comment, Abraham advised security firms to contact the police when responding to triggered alarms saying that had the police accompanied the security guards, yesterday's tragic death of Pierre could very well have been avoided.

Police sources said that they were told that the alarm at Bergerpaints had been triggered several times in the recent past and nothing amiss was noted.

This time yesterday, the alarm was triggered by burglars intent on breaking into the compound only to be confronted by the two security guards. Investigations are continuing.