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Posted by alisawhite123 - 2020/07/07 14:19
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Portland police have responded to 17 shootings so far this month, a 240 percent increase when the city saw five in the same timeframe last year, the department announced Monday.

One shooting earlier this month injured a man, while another resulted in an infant child putting a spent bullet in her mouth, police revealed. In a statement, Portland police chief Chuck Lovell called the spike &#65533;alarming. &#65533;

&#65533;Gun violence negatively impacts everyone in our community and the increase we are seeing is alarming, &#65533; he said. &#65533;As a community, we must come together to send a message that shootings in our City are unacceptable. &#65533;

Portland has faced weeks of unrest following the death of George Floyd in May. Over the weekend, police declared a riot after a bronze sculpture honoring Oregon&#65533;s pioneers was set ablaze outside the city&#65533;s justice center. The Fourth of July marked the city&#65533;s 38th consecutive day of civil unrest.

The head of Portland&#65533;s police union released his own statement on Monday, calling on officials to take action.

&#65533;As riots continue, it is obvious to everyone that this is no longer about George Floyd, social justice, or police reform, &#65533; Portland Police Association president Daryl Turner said. &#65533;This is about a group of individuals intent on causing injury, chaos, and destruction by rioting, looting, starting fires, throwing rocks, bottles, mortars, urine, and feces at peaceful protestors, as well as the police. &#65533;.

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