

US MALE: Reports of violence erupted today in the research facility known as Limetown, located in White County, Tennessee and home to over 300 residents.

US FEMALE: Emergency services have gathered to the isolated location as smoke rises from somewhere on the property.

**The first time most people heard about Limetown was on the night of February 8 2004.**

911 Call:

US MALE: 911, what is your emergency?

FEMALE CALLER: [Unintelligible]

USM: Hello? Are you there?

FC: Hello? Can you hear me?

USM: Yes ma'am. What is the nature of your emergency?

FC: We need emergency services in Limetown. The ambulance as well as the fire and police. Just send the whole [bleeped on tape] army!

USM: Ma'am, ma'am I'm going to have to ask you to calm down.

FC: Turn it off! Turn it-

USM: Ma'am? Are you still there?

**Seventeen minutes later, the first responders arrive to the outside gate, followed shortly thereafter by local new station WVPK where they uncovered the troubling reality: no-one was allowed access into Limetown.**

News Report:

US MALE: Samantha, can you tell us what's going on?

SAMANTHA: Thanks, Ron. We're standing at the outer security gates of Limetown and, as you can see, there is a large gathering of police officers and firefighters here but they are not being allowed into the facility.

USM: Not being allowed? What do you mean they're not being allowed? Who's not allowing them, Samantha?

SAMANTHA: Well, we can't get anyone to speak to us right now but we can see that there is a size-able security presence on the other side of the fence and there seems to be an ongoing conversation--

MALE VOICE: Get back into your vehicle.

SAMANTHA: Can someone tell us what's happening?

MALE VOICE: Get back into your vehicle now.

SAMANTHA: Sorry, we're being told to clear the area now. There seems to be a lot of confusion.

**The reason or reasons for their denied access remains a point of contention. The next morning there was no visible activity within the community.**

News Report:

US MALE [helicopters in background]: There is no-one on the ground that I can see but there does appear to be a large smoldering bonfire I would guess. There's one large stake in the ground. Hard to make out from here what I'm looking at.

**For the next two days Limetown was dormant. All attempts at contact failed and on the morning of February 11th the security team left their post. Police officers on the scene were prevented, presumably by their superiors, from stopping the security team for questioning.**

News Report:

US FEMALE: The security at the front gate is now driving away from the facility. (engine noise) Sir! Can you tell me what is happening?

The gate to Limetown was left open. What the world discovered was the complete disappearance of every man, woman and child in Limetown. Three hundred and twenty seven people.

News Report:

[press conference noises]

US FEMALE: Officer, what can you tell us about the investigation?

OFFICER: [Unintelligible]

US FEMALE: Where is everyone?

OFFICER: Don't make me ask you again.

MALE: Nobody's here.

US FEMALE: Nobody's here? What do you mean by that?

MALE: Everybody's just gone.

**The story exploded, gaining international attention.**

[Headlines from global news reports in several languages  
References to prayer and alien abduction]

MALE VOICE: All I'm saying is they need to check those caves.

OTHER MALE: We have checked the caves, OK? Enough with the caves.

And then, just as suddenly as the story of Limetown landed, it evaporated back into the 24-hour news cycle, swallowed by the first legal same-sex marriage in San Francisco, the announcement of successful human cloning in South Korea, war in Iraq, or Afghanistan, marriages, scandal, weather, drugs. The story of Limetown became a tragedy among countless other tragedies. A ghost story you can barely remember.

My name is Lia Haddock, and I'm an investigative reporter with APR. I was seventeen years old as the events of Limetown unfolded and I became somewhat of a Limetown news junkie. In the spirit of full disclosure, it is also a personal story to me as an uncle on my father's side (granted, one I only ever heard stories about and never met beyond infancy), Dr Emil Haddock, was counted as one of the missing. All things considered, it is fair to say that Limetown and the questions it left in my family played a large part in why I became a reporter in the first place. The infamous photo of the devastated father collapsed to his knees outside the gates of Limetown, his hands pulling his hair in outrage and confusion, hangs on the wall above my desk. It seems I was always supposed to tell the story. So, without any further delay, the following report is the first of seven - that's right seven - part series on Limetown, starting with everything we know up to this point, then quickly moving to the people most affected and what it means to them today. Our aim? Simply to remember to honor, and to attempt to give a voice to the missing through the ones who loved them most and who cannot, who will not forget them. Please, stay tuned.