



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:  
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Wednesday, July 15, 2009

## Update on found human remains

Ref: KCSO news release #09-030, June 13, 2009

**Port Orchard, Wash.** -- Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives have released a forensic artist's drawing (below) of a face believed to be that of a deceased person whose remains were discovered buried June 8, in the 3100 block of Harold Drive SE in South Kitsap.

The finding of the human remains was classified as a homicide investigation on June 10.

Based upon an updated analysis of the remains conducted by a forensic anthropologist on the staff of the King County Medical Examiner, sheriff's detectives believe:

- The deceased person is a ***Hispanic male***.
- The age of the male, at the time of death, is believed to be in his late 'teens to early twenties.
- The body has been deceased between two and 18 months.



## **Chronology:**

The human remains recovery site was located in the 3100 block of Harold Drive SE, north of SE Lund Avenue and south of SE Lundberg Road, in close proximity to a construction site for future residential homes.

- The investigation was initiated around 6:30 p.m., June 6, when a worker from the nearby construction site found a discarded athletic shoe / boot. Inside the boot were the remains of a severed human foot.
- Volunteer K-9 handlers and their dogs from Northwest Disaster Search Dogs assisted sheriff's detectives on June 8. The dogs consistently alerted on a specific location that allowed detectives to narrow the focus of their search.
- Excavation began at the site that afternoon with assistance from the Washington State Patrol Crime Scene Response Team.
- Human bones were recovered around 8:30 p.m. that evening and turned over into the custody of the Kitsap County Coroner, for transfer to the office of the King County Medical Examiner (KCME). The medical examiner is providing assistance to Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives with the expertise of a forensic anthropologist on the KCME staff.
- Based upon a recommendation provided by the medical examiner, sheriff's detectives resumed excavation on June 10. Additional remains were recovered. These remains also were transferred into the custody of KCME.
- During the course of the excavation sheriff's detectives unearthed evidence that altered the focus of the investigation from recovery of human remains (with cause / manner of death unknown) to a homicide investigation.
- Crime scene processing of the excavation site has now been completed.
- DNA samples recovered from the remains are in the custody of the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab for processing and analysis.

The investigation continues. Sheriff's detectives are pursuing all evidence, data and intelligence as they proceed with identification of the remains.

Persons with information should contact Detective Mike Rodrigue at (360) 337-4479, or Detective Chad Birkenfeld at (360) 337-5619.

Those who wish to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound at 1-800-222-8477.

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