PORT ORCHARD, Wash. -- Kitsap County Sheriff’s traffic investigators are examining a motorcycle crash this afternoon where the driver was declared deceased at the scene.

**Location:** 1600 block of SW Old Clifton Road, in South Kitsap, between Lieseke Lane SW and SW Berry Lake Road, outside the Port Orchard city limits.

**Time & date:** reported at 3:07 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 16.

**Responding agencies:**
- Patrol and traffic deputies from Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office.
- Engine and medic crews from South Kitsap Fire and Rescue (SKFR).

**Involved:**

**Vehicle:** 2007 Kawasaki VN900 motorcycle.

**Motorcyclist:** Pronounced deceased at the scene by SKFR medics.

Identified by the Kitsap County Coroner’s Office as Ernest Gilbert Mejia, age 78, from South Kitsap.

No other vehicles or persons were involved.
Synopsis:

Sheriff’s patrol deputies responded to reports of a single motorcycle crash with the condition of the operator unknown.

Upon arrival deputies found the motorcycle laying on its side in the roadway having sustained significant damage. The motorcyclist was located in an adjacent drainage ditch.

SKFR medical crews initiated emergency care until it was determined that all efforts were unsuccessful. The operator subsequently was declared deceased.

It’s unknown if any form of impairment was a factor in the cause of the crash or if the motorcyclist was experiencing a medical emergency at the time of the crash. That will be determined during the course of the investigation.

Mr. Mejia was wearing a required motorcycle safety helmet.

The county’s forensic pathologist will conduct an autopsy. The Kitsap County Coroner will make a determination as to cause and manner of death.

An analysis of the crash scene indicated that the Kawasaki was traveling westbound on Old Clifton Road. The operator failed to negotiate a curve to the left, lost control of the motorcycle which careened off of the pavement onto the roadway shoulder and up onto the embankment where it continued its momentum until the motorcycle went down and tumbled, ejecting the operator.

Persons with information about this crash are asked to contact Deputy Steve Martin, sheriff’s traffic unit, at (360) 337-4634.

Reference: Kitsap County Sheriff’s Office case report K16-007941.