



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For immediate release:
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Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008

South Kitsap fatality crash

Port Orchard, Wash. -- A South Kitsap woman was found deceased this morning at the scene of a single vehicle crash in the 5900 block of SE Nelson Road, in the Olalla area of South Kitsap.

The Kitsap County Coroner's Office has identified the woman as Sandra L. Kelley, age 55, of Olalla.

Kitsap County Sheriff's patrol deputies and emergency crews from South Kitsap Fire & Rescue were dispatched to the scene, following a report of a vehicle down an embankment but hidden from view of passing motorists. A pedestrian walking along the shoulder of Nelson Road made the discovery around 8:30 a.m.

Deputies and firefighters found a 1984 Dodge Ram pick-up truck down an approximate 20 foot embankment obscured by heavy woods. The truck was severely damaged and the woman was found in the driver's seat.

No other persons were involved in the crash.

The woman's family had filed a missing person report with the sheriff's office Friday morning, stating that they last had telephone contact with her around 4:45 p.m. Thursday afternoon. The family stated that the woman had driven to Gig Harbor on an errand and was supposed to be returning to her residence in Olalla.

Sheriff's deputies initiated an investigation that included attempted tracking of the woman's cell phone signal, re-tracing her expected movement route from the store in Gig Harbor, checking all local hospitals and other facilities and contacting known acquaintances. Deputies were continuing their investigation this morning when the 9-1-1 report was dispatched regarding the hidden vehicle found down the embankment.

Although the investigation into the crash is in its early stages, traffic investigators determined that the Dodge truck was traveling eastbound on SE Nelson Road. The truck crossed the centerline and continued for about 190 feet, over the westbound lane of travel and along the north shoulder of the roadway, before plunging over the embankment into the woods where its momentum was stopped when it struck a tree.

About a one-quarter mile section of SE Nelson Road was limited to one-lane travel during the majority of the investigative process. The road was shut down for about an hour when emergency equipment arrived to extricate the truck from the woods.

The Kitsap County Coroner will determine the cause and manner of death. An autopsy is scheduled for tomorrow.

Other factors:

- The driver was wearing a lap / shoulder belt at the time of the crash.
- An analysis of the truck's speed prior to the crash will be conducted as standard procedure in a fatality vehicle collision.
- Also included in the autopsy portion of the investigation will be toxicology tests to determine whether or not alcoholic intoxicants or narcotics had been ingested by the driver.

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