



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:
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Monday, March 1, 2010

South Kitsap fatality collision

Port Orchard, Wash. -- Kitsap County Sheriff's traffic deputies have initiated an investigation into a single vehicle fatality collision that occurred during the evening hours, yesterday, in South Kitsap.

Location: 3200 block of SW Lake Helena Road at Huckleberry Road SW.

Time & date: 7:33 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 28. Sheriff's patrol deputies arrived at 7:43 p.m. South Kitsap Fire & Rescue engine and medic units were on scene at 7:44 p.m.

Involved:

Vehicle: 2000 Ford Escort

- Driver: female, age 21, from Gig Harbor. Treated at scene then transported by medic unit to Saint Joseph's Hospital, Tacoma, for further evaluation and treatment.
- Passenger: declared deceased at the scene. Identified by Kitsap County Coroner's Office as Diane Dorsey Racine, age 57, also from Gig Harbor.
- The passenger and driver are mother / daughter.

Synopsis:

Although the investigation is in its early stages, a preliminary analysis from traffic investigators indicates that the Ford Escort was traveling westbound on SW Lake Helena Road.

The driver lost control of the vehicle and it careened off of the north shoulder of the road. The vehicle collided with several trees prior to re-entering the roadway and coming to a stop, facing east, in the westbound lane of travel.

During the collision the passenger was ejected from the vehicle and sustained a traumatic head injury.

Immediate emergency first aid was rendered to the two women by an off-duty Port Orchard police officer, and by a nurse, who came upon the collision shortly after it occurred.

Neither occupant in the vehicle was wearing a seatbelt. It is unknown if the ingestion of alcohol or narcotics by the driver are contributing factors; this should be known following toxicology tests. Investigators are conducting their analysis to determine the vehicle's speed.

Lake Helena Road was closed to thru traffic for more than four hours while this crash was under investigation.

Anyone with information about this collision is asked to contact Deputy Andrew Aman, sheriff's traffic unit, at (360) 337-4634.

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