

Sheriff's detectives investigating death of found body

Port Orchard, WA – Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives are investigating the death of an adult male found yesterday (Sat., Aug. 9, 2003), in a wooded area located off of the 11000 block of Old Military Road, NE, Central Kitsap.

The body was discovered sometime after 2:00 p.m., on a walking/riding trail in the area. The initial 911 call was received by Central Communications dispatchers at 2:25 p.m.

Sheriff's patrol deputies responded to the scene immediately and set about containing the area to prevent disturbance of possible evidence. Sheriff's detectives were simultaneously called-out and began arriving in the area to process the scene for evidence, and to initiate their investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of the man.

According to Detective Lt. Earl Smith, the body has been identified by the Kitsap County Coroner, and confirmed by the Medical Examiner, as that of Zachary J. Fitz, age 20, of Bremerton.

“The manner and exact cause of death can only be determined by the Medical Examiner; however it appears that the victim sustained apparent trauma-type injuries,” said Lt. Smith. “These injuries appear to be recent, within the past 24 hours. Due to the nature of the injuries the Sheriff's Office is treating the location as a crime scene and the death of the person as an apparent homicide.”

Sheriff's detectives remained at the crime scene well into the night collecting evidence.

An autopsy was completed today by the medical examiner. The results have not yet been released.

The investigation into the death of the victim continues by Sheriff's detectives.

Anyone who may have information concerning this case is requested to contact Detective Mike Rodrigue, Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, at (360) 337-4479.

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