

# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For Immediate Release:  
KCSO Press Release #03-033/120

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## - Media Release -

### **Three vehicle South Kitsap collision sends four to hospital**

**Port Orchard, Wash.** -- On 11/21/2003 at approximately 4:42 pm the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Patrol, and South Kitsap Fire and Rescue responded to a three car serious injury collision on Lake Flora Rd approximately 8/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile west of Square Lake Rd.

Based on the initial investigation it appears a Green Ford Taurus driven by Mark Aldrich of South Kitsap was east bound on Lake Flora Rd when he crossed the centerline. The Green Ford Taurus struck a White Chevy Corsica that was west bound on Lake Flora Rd. The White Chevy Corsica was driven by Tina Buffington of Allyn, WA. She had two passengers in the car, a 4-year-old boy and 1-year-old boy. The White Chevy Corsica was forced off the roadway.

After striking the white Chevy Corsica the Green Taurus continued east bound in the west bound lane until it struck a Blue Chevy Pickup driven by Barbara Starkel. Both vehicles came to rest blocking both lanes of Lake Flora Rd.

All three occupants of the white Chevy Corsica suffered minor injuries and were transported to Mary Bridge Hospital in Tacoma. Starkel was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle where she was listed in critical condition.

Aldrich refused treatment at the scene. Aldrich showed signs of alcohol consumption, but after being evaluated, was determined to be below the legal limit. Aldrich said his attention was diverted when his lit cigarette fell between his legs. Aldrich cooperated with investigators at the scene and was later transported home.

All three vehicles sustained heavy damage as a result of the collision.

This collision is still under investigation. If anyone has any information regarding this collision please contact Deputy Andy Aman at (360) 337-4634.

**- End -**