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Body found in woods in West Kitsap

Seabeck, Wash. -- A late morning report of the discovered remains of a human body has initiated a Sheriff's investigation into the circumstances surrounding the person's death.

Sheriff's patrol deputies and detectives responded to a wooded area in the 17000 block of NW Hintzville Road, in the Seabeck area of West Kitsap, after an area resident reported finding the body several yards off of the roadway, down an embankment.

The Kitsap County Coroner's Office has recovered the remains of an apparent middle-aged male in an advanced stage of decomposition. The body was fully clothed. An autopsy of the remains is scheduled for tomorrow as part of the Coroner's investigation.

A portion of Hintzville Road, north of West One Mile Road, was closed to through traffic for five hours during the course of the investigation.

It is unknown how long the body had been at the location where found.

"All death investigations are conducted in accordance with a standardized protocol," said Detective Lt. Earl Smith. "Some investigations require more time due to the location of the deceased. At this point, however, our preliminary investigation does not indicate anything extraordinary, suspicious or criminal in nature. The Coroner and the forensic pathologist will make a determination as to the manner and cause of death."

The identity of the person is not available for public release. The Coroner's Office, through their investigation, must first confirm the identity of the man and attempt to notify family members.

The investigation continues.

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