



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

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For immediate release:
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Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009

Critical injury collision near Lake Tahuyeh

Seabeck, Wash. -- A head on collision between a sport utility vehicle and a sports car resulted in two persons being airlifted to Harborview Medical Center, Seattle late Monday evening.

Sheriff's patrol and traffic deputies, together with engine and medic units from Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue, responded just after 10:00 p.m. to the collision scene located at the intersection of Gold Creek Road NW & Lake Tahuyeh Road NW & Kingsway NW, in the Central Kitsap area just north of Lake Tahuyeh.

Upon arrival rescue crews found one driver trapped underneath a vehicle while the other driver was trapped inside.

Involved:

Vehicle #1: 1989 Jeep Cherokee, white in color.

Driver of vehicle #1: female, age 45, Shelton (Mason County) resident. Airlifted to Harborview Medical Center, Seattle with life-threatening injuries (critical condition).

Passenger in vehicle #1: male, age 48, Central Kitsap resident. Transported by ground medic unit to Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton with non life-threatening injuries.

Vehicle #2: 1992 Eagle Talon hatchback (3-door), red in color.

Driver of vehicle #2: male, age 19, Central Kitsap resident. Airlifted to Harborview Medical Center, Seattle with non life-threatening injuries (serious condition).

No other occupants of vehicle #2

Synopsis:

Vehicle #1, the Jeep Cherokee operated by the 45 year-old woman, was traveling northbound on Gold Creek Road NW. Vehicle #2, the Eagle Talon driven by the 19 year-old man, was traveling southbound on Lake Tahuyeh Road NW.

The driver of the Jeep failed to negotiate a moderate curve to the right where the roadway changes name from Gold Creek Road to Lake Tahuyeh Road. The driver lost control of her vehicle and the Jeep crossed the centerline and struck the Eagle Talon head-on.

After impact the Jeep Cherokee rolled and came to rest on its passenger side. The female driver was ejected from the Jeep and became trapped underneath the vehicle when it rolled. The driver of the Eagle Talon was trapped inside of his vehicle.

Emergency crews from Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue had to use rescue equipment to raise the Jeep high enough in order to extricate the female driver out from underneath the vehicle chassis. CKF&R also had to use rescue equipment in order to free the driver of the Eagle Talon out of his vehicle.

Both the female driver of the Jeep Cherokee and the male driver of the Eagle Talon were airlifted to Harborview Medical Center, Seattle. The male passenger in the Jeep was transported to Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton with non life-threatening injuries.

Both vehicles were totaled.

Neither occupant of the Jeep Cherokee was wearing a seatbelt. The driver of the Eagle Talon was wearing his seatbelt, which most likely saved his life.

Sheriff's traffic investigators look at all possible factors in the cause of any collision, including whether or not alcohol or drug ingestion by drivers is an issue and whether or not excessive vehicle speed is an issue. There is no data or evidence available right now regarding alcohol / drug usage or vehicle speeds at the time of the collision.

Anyone who may have witnessed this collision is asked to contact Deputy Mike Shannon, sheriff's traffic unit, at (360) 337-4634.

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