



# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:  
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Saturday, June 13, 2009

## Update Found human remains in South Kitsap

**Port Orchard, Wash.** -- As reported by local and regional news media during the past week, Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives have been excavating an area in South Kitsap as they processed the scene for the recovery of human remains.

The finding of human remains has now been classified as a homicide investigation.

**Update.** Sheriff's detectives have been advised by the King County Medical Examiner of the following:

- Based on the preliminary analysis of the remains recovered, it is believed that the remains are that of a male.
- The age of the male, at the time of death, is believed to be late 'teens or early twenties.
- The body has been deceased between two and 12 months.

### **Chronology.**

The human remains recovery site is located in the 3100 block of Harold Drive SE, north of SE Lund Avenue and south of SE Lundberg Road, in close proximity to a construction site for future residential homes.

- The investigation was initiated around 6:30 p.m., June 6, when a worker from the nearby construction site found a discarded athletic shoe / boot. Inside the boot were the remains of a severed human foot.
- Volunteer K-9 handlers and their dogs from Northwest Disaster Search Dogs assisted sheriff's detectives on Monday. The dogs consistently alerted on a specific location that allowed detectives to narrow the focus of their search.

- Excavation began at the site Monday afternoon with assistance from the Washington State Patrol Crime Scene Response Team.
- Human bones were recovered around 8:30 p.m. Monday evening and turned over into the custody of the Kitsap County Coroner, for transfer to the office of the King County Medical Examiner (KCME). The medical examiner is providing assistance to Kitsap County Sheriff's detectives with the expertise of a forensic anthropologist on the KCME staff.
- Based upon a recommendation provided by the medical examiner, sheriff's detectives resumed excavation on Wednesday. Additional remains were recovered. Sheriff's detectives employed a commercial screening machine operated by Sound Excavation, Inc., of Bremerton, to assist in searching and processing a large amount of soil over the course of hours.
- The remains recovered on Wednesday also were transferred into the custody of KCME.
- During the course of Wednesday's excavation sheriff's detectives unearthed evidence that altered the focus of the investigation from recovery of human remains (with cause / manner of death unknown) to a homicide investigation. Further information about the evidence is not being released publicly.
- Crime scene processing of the excavation site has been suspended pending additional information.

The investigation continues. Sheriff's detectives are pursuing all evidence, data and intelligence as they proceed with identification of the remains. Anyone with information should contact Detective Mike Rodrigue at (360) 337-4479, or Detective Chad Birkenfeld at (360) 337-5619.

Those who wish to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound at 1-800-222-8477.

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