

MEDIA RELEASE

Man Dies in Single-Vehicle Crash on New Year's Eve

December 31, 2021

On Friday, December 31, 2021, at 2:22 p.m., Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies and Hillsboro Fire and Rescue responded to a single-vehicle crash at SW Farmington Road and SW Rood Bridge Road, south of the city of Hillsboro. Witnesses reported that a vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed before it lost control and went airborne, ultimately coming to rest in a ditch.

The driver was transported to a local trauma hospital with serious injuries. He later died of injuries sustained in the crash. He has been identified as William L. Bartels, 65, of Forest Grove.

An injured border collie puppy was also located at the scene. Deputies transported the dog to a local emergency veterinarian for treatment. The dog is expected to fully recover.

Investigators confirmed that unsafe speed was a factor in this crash. Deputies remind the public to obey all traffic laws and drive cautiously in the current winter conditions.

Tonight's temperatures are expected to stay below freezing all night. Please celebrate the new year responsibly and plan a safe ride home.

Deputies recommend the following:

- Designate a safe driver before you go out;
- Use a rideshare service, widely available in Washington County;

For those traveling to/from Portland tonight, Tri-Met is offering free rides on buses, MAX, and Portland Streetcar after 8 p.m.

If you are behind a suspected impaired driver, call 911 or non-emergency dispatch at 503-629-0111.



SHERIFF
WASHINGTON COUNTY

MEDIA CONTACT: 503-209-5613

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