

MEDIA RELEASE

Impaired Driver Airlifted to Hospital After Crash Causes Vehicle Fire

February 28, 2019

On Thursday, February 28, 2019, at 4:12 p.m., Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies serving the City of Cornelius responded to an injury traffic crash at the intersection of South 12th Street and South Dogwood Street.

Community members had pulled an unconscious female from a red 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee prior to deputies arriving. When deputies arrived, the Jeep caught fire and deputies attempted to use fire extinguishers to control the flames. Cornelius Fire & Rescue, assisted by Forest Grove Fire & Rescue responded to treat the driver and extinguish the flames.



Based on witness accounts, deputies learned that Jeep was traveling southbound on South 12th Street at a high rate of speed when it struck a Toyota Camry at South Dogwood Street. The collision caused the Jeep to spin and strike a parked Chevrolet Silverado, and later catch fire.

The driver of the Jeep, 18-year-old Natalie Saiz-Amezquita of Cornelius, was transported by Metro West Ambulance to a nearby Life Flight helicopter, which airlifted her to a Portland trauma hospital.

During their investigation, deputies learned Ms. Saiz-Amezquita was impaired by alcohol. After being discharged from the hospital, she was arrested on charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants, second-degree criminal mischief, and reckless driving.

The inter-agency Washington County [Crash Analysis Reconstruction Team](#) (CART) assisted with the investigation.

There were no other injuries reported.



POLICE
CITY OF CORNELIUS

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