



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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News

For immediate release:
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Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019

One dead in North Kitsap crash

NORTH KITSAP, Wash. -- Kitsap County Sheriff's traffic deputies are investigating a two-vehicle fatality collision that occurred during the late afternoon, Saturday, in North Kitsap.

Location: 21600 block of Miller Bay Road NE at the intersection with NE Wood Bay Lane, in unincorporated North Kitsap, between Kingston and Suquamish.

Time & date: reported at 4:43 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 17.

Responding agencies:

Law enforcement: patrol deputies and traffic investigators from Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, assisted by a Washington State Patrol commercial vehicle inspector.

Fire: Engine and medic units from North Kitsap Fire & Rescue (NKFR).

Involved:

Vehicle #1: 2005 Toyota Sequoia SUV.

Driver: male, declared deceased at the scene. The Kitsap County Coroner's Office has identified the driver as Kevin Patrick Chandler, age 55, of Seattle.



Looking northbound on Miller Bay Road NE at the collision site at NE Wood Bay Lane.

Vehicle #2: 2009 International 4000 (utility truck), owned by Puget Sound Energy, headquartered in Bellevue, Wash.

Driver: male, age 60, from Port Townsend, Jefferson County. This driver sustained minor injuries.

No other persons or vehicles were involved.

Synopsis:

Although the investigation is in its early stages, a preliminary report indicates the Toyota Sequoia was traveling southbound on Miller Bay Road. The PSE utility truck was traveling northbound on Miller Bay Road.

From evidence at the scene and the observations of witnesses, the Toyota SUV crossed over the centerline and into the path of the on-coming utility truck. The driver of the PSE vehicle attempted to take evasive action by braking and swerving. The two vehicles collided in the northbound lane.

The driver of the Toyota Sequoia was pronounced deceased at the scene by NKFR medics. According to traffic investigators, the Toyota SUV driver may have suffered a medical event just before the collision. This will be confirmed by the county's forensic pathologist. It also was determined that the SUV driver was not using the vehicle's seatbelt system.

The driver of the PSE utility truck was transported to a Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton, for further evaluation and treatment. There is no evidence that this driver was speeding or driving impaired.

The county's forensic pathologist will conduct an autopsy of Mr. Chandler. The autopsy is scheduled for Aug. 19. The Kitsap County Coroner will issue a determination as to the cause and manner of death.

Miller Bay Road was closed to thru traffic for more than five hours while traffic deputies and the WSP commercial vehicle inspector conducted their investigations.

Reference: case report K19-008388.

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