

La Pine Man Killed in Highway 97 Crash south of Bend

by Cheryl McDermott

A La Pine man was killed Saturday afternoon in a single-vehicle crash 15 miles south of Bend on Highway 97 when his pickup veered across the highway, went down a 20-foot embankment and struck a tree head-on, said authorities.

The victim was identified as Jimmy G. Wilson, 55. Wilson was the driver and sole occupant of the Nissan pickup.

Oregon State Police (OSP) Trooper James Hayes drove upon the scene a couple minutes after the crash occurred about 4:30 p.m. October 7, and began first-aid efforts. Airlife responded to the accident and transported Wilson by air to St. Charles Medical Center-Bend, where he was pronounced deceased at the scene.

According to the OSP news release, Wilson was not using safety restraints.

Oregon Department of Transportation, Deschutes County Sheriff's officers, and local emergency responders assisted at the scene.

OSP troopers from the Bend Area Command office are continuing the investigation.

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