

One killed, one injured in alcohol-related crash

by Cheryl McDermott

A 26-year old Bend man was killed and his brother injured in a rollover crash on Knott Road early Sunday morning that deputies say was alcohol-related.

According to a news release update prepared by Deschutes County Sheriff's deputy Lt. Shane Nelson, a Bend Fire Department ambulance came across the crash about 12:30 a.m., December 9, as it was returning from an unrelated medical call. "They arrived just as an unknown caller contacted 911 dispatch to report the crash," Nelson said.

Deputies and a Bend Fire engine also arrived on scene, and preliminary investigation determined that the passenger-side tires of a 1999 Dodge Durango operated by Paul T. Hopper left the road and traveled on the soft shoulder, causing the pickup to slide sideways and roll several times.

The vehicle received "extensive damage," Nelson said, and came to rest on its tires after rolling off the side of the road and landing against a mason-block wall.

Hopper, not wearing a seat belt, was ejected from the vehicle and pronounced deceased at the scene.

The driver's brother, Michael Don Hopper, 23, from Parma, Idaho, was wearing safety restraints and received only minor injuries, the lieutenant said. He was transported to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, treated, and released.

Several Oregon State Police troopers and two Bend City Police units assisted deputies on scene, Nelson said. Deschutes County Public Works personnel closed Knott Road between the county landfill to Rickard Road for about 4 ½ hours and handled traffic control.

While the investigation is still continuing, Lt. Nelson definitively stated, "alcohol was a factor in this crash."

One killed, one injured in alcohol-related crash by Cheryl McDermott