

One dead, two injured in head-on crash near Eugene

by Cheryl McDermott

EUGENE, Ore. — One driver was killed and another driver and his passenger seriously injured in a head-on crash Tuesday evening just north of Eugene on Highway 99, police reported.

The driver of the car (above) was killed when the vehicle was hit head-on by a pickup that crossed the centerline of Highway 99 north of Eugene. The driver and passenger of the pickup (below) both suffered serious injuries. - OSP photos Justin Daniel Dougherty, 23, was pronounced deceased after being transported to Sacred Heart Hospital (SHH).

Ebigail Rodriguez Sanchez, 29, and passenger Eduardo Gutierrez, 41, both of Eugene, suffered serious injuries and were taken to SHH for treatment, Oregon State Police (OSP) stated in a news release.

OSP Sgt. Ron Martin said Sanchez was driving north on Highway 99 near Aubrey Lane about three miles north of town at 6:45 p.m., March 4, when the collision occurred.

According to witnesses, Sanchez's 1988 Dodge pickup, instead of negotiating a right-hand curve, crossed the center divider into the oncoming lanes of traffic and crashed into a 1988 Honda car driven by Dougherty.

Highway 99 was partially closed for more than four hours, OSP said. Eugene Emergency Medical Services, Lane County Sheriff's deputies, Lane Rural Firefighters, and Oregon Department of Transportation all assisted on scene.

Springfield Area Command troopers are continuing the investigation to determine the cause of the crash, which is unknown at the time of the news release.

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