

Man thought to be passenger is actually driver in fatal crash near Eugene

by Cheryl McDermott

EUGENE, Ore. — Police have determined that a person originally thought to be a passenger in a pickup that crossed the center line and struck an oncoming vehicle in a head-on collision that caused the death of the second driver near Eugene, Oregon on Tuesday evening was actually the driver.

Police have determined that the man they believed was a passenger in this pickup involved in a fatal head-on crash near Eugene, Oregon on Tuesday was actually the driver - OSP photo An ongoing investigation by Oregon State Police (OSP), including interviews with both men and emergency responders, determined that Eduardo Gutierrez, 41, of Eugene, was driving the 1988 Dodge pickup on Highway 99 near Aubrey Lane when the collision occurred. Gutierrez has a valid drivers license, troopers said.

The man reported to be the driver, Rodriguez Ebigael Sanchez, 29, of Eugene, was a passenger in the vehicle, OSP reported.

The driver of the 1988 Honda car that was struck by the pickup was pronounced deceased at Sacred Heart Hospital. He was identified as 23-year old Eugene resident, Justin Daniel Dougherty.

Sanchez and Gutierrez remain in the hospital where they are being treated for serious injuries, a news release stated.

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