

One killed, three injured in Highway 99W crash

by Cheryl McDermott

NEWBERG-DUNDEE, Ore. — Police believe speed and alcohol may have contributed to a three-vehicle crash Sunday afternoon which took the life of one woman and seriously injured three men.

According to Oregon State Police (OSP) Sgt. Brad Hessel, 51-year old Carma Colleen Smith, of Dayton, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police believe speed and alcohol may have contributed to a 3-vehicle crash on Highway 99W Sunday afternoon which resulted in the death of one woman, and serious injuries to three men - OSP photo Preliminary investigation revealed that Smith's 2000 Toyota Avalon was hit head-on by a 1994 Ford Taurus which became airborne and crossed the grassy center median on Highway 99W between Dundee and Newberg near milepost 25 after the driver lost control shortly after 3 p.m., May 11.

Leonel Zurita Loeza, 26, of Portland, was identified as the driver of the Ford, and was allegedly traveling at a high rate of speed before the crash. While the investigation is ongoing, OSP reported alcohol may also have been involved.

Loeza was seriously injured and flown by LifeFlight air ambulance to Legacy Emanuel Hospital. One of the two passengers in Loeza's vehicle, 21-year old Beaverton resident Izquierdo L. Jonathan, was flown by LifeFlight to Oregon Health Sciences University. Nicholas Contreras, 31, of Beaverton, was taken to Newberg Providence Hospital by ambulance. All occupants of the Ford received what police described as serious injuries.

Following impact with the deceased woman's Toyota, Loeza's Ford struck an oncoming 2003 Toyota Corolla driven by Steven J. Marcaccini, 57, of Aurora, Oregon. Neither Marcaccini or his passengers, two women and one man, were injured, the OSP news release stated.

The highway was closed for more than five hours, troopers said.

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