

Woman Dies in One of Seven Crashes on Highway 219

by Richard Burton

Black ice is being blamed for seven crashes that occurred on Highway 219 Thursday morning, one of which resulted in the death of a Cornelius, Oregon woman, said Washington County authorities.

Shortly before 7 a.m. on December 21, deputies from the Washington County Sheriff's office were dispatched to Highway 219 (also known as Hillsboro Highway) just south of Highway 10 (SW Farmington Road) to investigate a crash involving three vehicles. Witnesses reported that one person was trapped in a vehicle and the road was covered with ice, said Sgt. Dave Thompson.

When deputies arrived, they found Bethany Marie Ferguson, 34, deceased at the scene of the crash. According to a news release issued by the sheriff's office, Ferguson was traveling south on Highway 219 in a 2004 Saturn Ion II when she hit a patch of black ice and spun out. After crossing into the oncoming lane of traffic, her vehicle was struck in the driver-side door by a 2000 Toyota 4-Runner, and the Toyota was then hit in the rear by a third vehicle.

The driver of the Toyota, whose name was not released, sustained injuries in the crash and was transported to Oregon Health Science University by ground ambulance.

The third driver, also unnamed, was not injured.

According to Sgt. Thompson, six other crashes were reported along Highway 219 this morning. In four of the crashes there were no reported injuries, and two resulted in non-life threatening injuries.