

Driver dies in fiery Highway 126E crash near Prineville

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

One person was killed early Sunday morning after their pickup left the roadway, crashed into two trees, and caught fire about five miles west of Prineville on Highway 126E, Oregon State Police (OSP) reported.

Shortly after 1 a.m. April 8, a small pickup with one occupant was eastbound on Highway 126E near milepost 13 when, for unknown reasons, it drifted onto the shoulder. The pickup traveled about 200 feet, then veered back onto the road, crossed both lanes and struck a large juniper tree on the north side of the highway, OSP reported. The vehicle sheared the tree off at its base, continued eastbound, and hit a second tree before coming to rest about 15 feet off the highway.

The pickup caught fire and the driver was killed. Investigators are attempting to establish the identity of the deceased, troopers said.

OSP troopers from Bend and Madras offices are continuing the investigation. They were assisted at the scene by Crook County Sheriff's deputies, Prineville Police Officers, and Crook County Fire Department personnel.

Oregon Department of Transportation detoured traffic around the accident scene before reopening Highway 126 about two hours later.

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