

## Body Discovered In Burning Vehicle After Crash

*by Cheryl McDermott*

Autopsy reveals victim is female, car is Suzuki Swift

An autopsy conducted Tuesday July 25th has revealed that a body found last Sunday afternoon in a burning vehicle is that of an unidentified female who died from blunt force trauma as a result of an automobile accident. Due to the extensive fire damage to the vehicle, at that time investigators were not able to determine the make or model of the car involved in the crash. Further examination has revealed the passenger car to be a Suzuki Swift, said Detective Tim Leak of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

The body was found when the Sheriff's Office, LaPine Fire Department, and USFS fire crews went to investigate a report of smoke west of Dawn Road and the Deschutes National Forest boundary.

About 3:24 pm on July 23rd, responders discovered a small passenger vehicle fully engulfed in flames, and it appeared that the vehicle had crashed head on into a tree, according to Lt. Deron McMaster. When fire personnel extinguished the flames, they discovered human remains inside the vehicle.

Identification of the victim is still to be determined by further forensic investigation, said Detective Leak, and the investigation is ongoing by detectives and deputies from the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office. Various agencies including the Oregon State Police, USFS fire crews, and LaPine Fire Department personnel also provided assistance with the accident, fire, and death investigations.

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