

Victim Identified in July Fiery Single-Car Crash on Dawn Road

by Cheryl McDermott

Authorities have positively identified the remains of a body found in a burning vehicle at the scene of a single-car crash July 23rd west of Dawn Road and the Deschutes National Forest boundary. According to a news release from the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, forensic investigation via dental records has determined that the victim is Deborah A. Davis, a 55-year-old La Pine resident.

The body was found about 3:24 pm July 23rd when the Sheriff's Office, LaPine Fire Department, and United States Forest Service fire crews went to investigate a report of smoke at the location. 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.

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 revealed the passenger car to be a Suzuki Swift, said Detective Tim Leak of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

In an autopsy conducted Tuesday July 25th, the body was determined to be a female who died from blunt force trauma as a result of the automobile accident, but further forensic investigation was required to make a positive identification.

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