

Dump truck driver killed in Hwy. 126 crash near Redmond

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

A 74-year old Redman man was killed yesterday afternoon when the dump truck he was driving crossed the centerline of Highway 126 near Redmond and crashed nearly head-on into a large utility truck, police reported.

The driver of the dump truck (above) was killed when his vehicle crossed the centerline of Highway 126 near Redmond and struck a utility truck (below) nearly head-on - OSP photos Frank Howard Ellis, 74, was traveling east on Highway 126 about six miles east of Redmond at 2:05 p.m., June 18, in a 1982 International dump truck owned by Ellis Tree Service when, for unknown reasons, his vehicle crossed the centerline and struck an oncoming utility truck.

According to an Oregon State Police (OSP) news release, Ellis was ejected from the vehicle at the time of impact and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The driver of the utility truck, a 1995 Ford owned by Central Electric Cooperative, was transported by ambulance to St. Charles Medical Center in Redmond where he was treated for minor injuries and released. He was identified as 43-year old Brian Dean Ortman of Bend. Ortman was wearing safety restraints, troopers reported.

Preliminary investigation into the crash does not indicate that alcohol or controlled substances contributed to the collision.

Troopers were assisted on scene by Crook County Sheriff's Office's deputies and Oregon Department of Transportation personnel. The highway was closed and traffic detoured for about three hours during scene investigation and cleanup.

The investigation is continuing.

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