



YAKIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ROBERT UDELL, Sheriff

TRAFFIC DIVISION

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Media Release Traffic Collision Fatal

Date: 3/8/2022

Contact: Deputy Scot Swallow

Yakima County Traffic Section/Commercial Vehicle Deputy

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Incident:22C03465

Location:Vanbelle Rd and Washout Rd, Sunnyside

Date:3/7/2022 @ 5:40 PM

Narrative:

On March 7th, 2022, at about 5:40 PM, Deputies with the Yakima County Sheriff's Office, Officers from the Sunnyside Police Department and Lower Valley Fire responded to the intersection of Vanbelle Road and Washout Road to a report of a two-vehicle collision and that one individual was not responding. When responders arrived, they found a 2000 Dodge Durango and a 2001 Nissan Frontier pickup off the road on the northeast corner of the intersection. The driver of the Nissan was deceased. He was the only occupant of the vehicle.

Initial investigation revealed that the Nissan, driven by J. Calderon (44) of Sunnyside was travelling north on Washout Rd and that the driver of the Durango, a David Gomez-Perez (26) of Sunnyside, was travelling east on Vanbelle Rd. Gomez-Perez was travelling at a rate of speed over the posted 50 MPH and did not stop at the stop sign. The front of his Dodge hit the driver's door area of the Nissan. The force of the impact was great enough that it bent the frame of the Nissan.

It's believed that Calderon died on impact.

There is evidence that Gomez-Perez was under the influence of intoxicants. He was taken into custody and booked into the Yakima County Jail for Vehicular Homicide charges.

The collision is under investigation by the Yakima County Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit.



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This is the 5th Fatality Collision this year, 4 of which have occurred in the lower valley area.

On a side note regarding road closures. We understand that it is an inconvenience when motorists come up barricades closing roads, but it is a necessity for the safety of all involved, for the officers and first responders on scene as well as the motoring public. At the scene last night, we had several individuals take it upon themselves to move the barricades and then drive up to the collision scene. Deputies then had to go back and replace the barricades. Those that choose to ignore the road closed barricades could be charged with the violation of RCW 47.48.040, Violation of Road Closed Signs. This is a Misdemeanor with a bail of \$500.00