



POLICE DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Sunday, March 20, 2022

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Police investigate fatal collision in south Salem

Salem, Ore. — The Salem Police Department Traffic Team is investigating an early morning crash in south Salem involving seven vehicles and resulting in one fatality and injury to the occupant of another involved vehicle.

The crash occurred at 7:20 a.m. on Owens ST S, just west of Commercial ST SE. Based on the initial investigation, officers determined a Ford F-150 truck traveling east on Owens ST was approaching a red light at Commercial ST. The truck failed to stop and struck the rear end of a Lexus sedan that was waiting with other traffic on a red-light signal. The collision caused a chain reaction crash involving six additional vehicles, a Honda SUV, Volkswagen Jetta, Volvo sedan, Nissan SUV, and a Dodge Ram truck.

The single occupant of the Lexus, Jose Rogelio Lopez Jr., 54, of Salem, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

An occupant in one of the involved vehicles was transported to Salem Health by ambulance.

The investigation is ongoing; however, it is suspected that speed and a medical issue may have contributed to the crash. Owens ST between Commercial and Saginaw STS were closed for several hours.

The investigation is ongoing and no further information is available at this time.

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