

Stanislaus County **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE 9-20-09
TIME 7:00 AM

VEHICLE PLUNGES INTO WASTEWATER POND, DRIVER DEAD

Waterford, CA – On 9-18-09, at around 7:14 PM, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Deputies responded to a report of a hit and run collision near the area of Yosemite Blvd (Highway 132) and Western Ave.

As deputies arrived on scene additional reports came in of a vehicle submerged in the water near the City of Waterford's Wastewater Treatment Facility. Deputies discovered the vehicle had driven off of the roadway and down a 100-foot embankment. Two deputies arrived and found two eyewitnesses in the sewage pond attempting to rescue the driver who was still inside.

Two Stanislaus County Sheriff's Deputies as well as a Stanislaus Consolidated Firefighter entered the sewage pond as they were the first emergency personnel to arrive on scene. After several failed attempts to retrieve the driver, all parties exited the pond.

All emergency personnel as well as the two eyewitnesses who entered the sewage were immediately decontaminated and transported to area hospitals as a medical precaution.

"This particular pond is raw, untreated sewage. It is highly toxic and hazardous," said City of Waterford Public Works Director Matt Erickson.

The incident turned to a recovery operation as a tow truck with special equipment was called to retrieve the vehicle from the pond. Members from the City of Waterford Public Works Department assisted by draining the water level from the pond by several feet.

The vehicle was eventually pulled from the sewage pond at around 1:00 AM. Inside the driver seat of the vehicle was a deceased adult female. According to witnesses, there were no other occupants in the vehicle during the collision.

Members from the Modesto Police Department's Major Accident Investigation Team (M.A.I.T.) were called in to handle the collision portion of the investigation. Recently, the Modesto Police Department entered into an inter-agency agreement regarding their assistance in investigating fatal/major injury accidents for the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department.

The Coroner's Office took custody of the deceased and is working on identifying and contacting next of kin.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Andrew Winter (209) 652-0300.

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