



Elk Grove Police Department **Press Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2007

Elk Grove Police Investigate Fatal Vehicle Collision

Elk Grove, CA – On September 5, 2007 at 2:45 p.m., the Elk Grove Police Department responded to a 911 call regarding a traffic collision in the 3700 block of Benedix Way. Several callers had indicated that a vehicle had driven into a nearby lake and that the occupants were possibly trapped inside.

Upon arrival, officers discovered that a vehicle traveling on Benedix Way had driven off the roadway and into the Laguna West Lake. Elk Grove Police Officers and Cosumnes Community Services District (CSD Fire Department) personnel arrived within minutes of the call. Officers discovered that several witnesses had stopped to render assistance to the occupants of the vehicle. The passenger of the vehicle, later identified as Guilherme Fernandez, had been pulled from the vehicle by a witness as it began to sink into the lake. Guilherme Fernandez was brought to the sidewalk area for emergency medical treatment and was later transported to a local area hospital in critical condition.

Believing that there was an additional person trapped in the submerged vehicle, several CSD employees and an Elk Grove Police Officer entered the lake in an attempt to extract the person still inside the vehicle. Emergency personnel made several heroic attempts to remove the driver of the vehicle, but they were unsuccessful in their efforts. Based on the conditions in the lake, additional assistance was requested from the Sacramento County Drowning Accident Rescue Team (D.A.R.T). D.A.R.T arrived on scene and began an emergency rescue operation to recover the driver of the vehicle.

At approximately 3:40 p.m., D.A.R.T was able to recover the driver of the vehicle, later identified as Liliana Fernandez. Liliana Fernandez was transported to a local area hospital in critical condition. D.A.R.T. was able to determine that there were no other occupants inside the submerged vehicle. With the assistance of a local tow company, the vehicle was later pulled from the lake.

At approximately 6:41 p.m., the Elk Grove Police Department received information that the passenger, Guilherme Fernadez, had passed away as a results of the injuries he sustained from the collision.

The Elk Grove Police Department Traffic Bureau will be conducting an investigation into the collision. The cause of the collision is under investigation at this time. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Traffic Bureau at (916) 478-8147.

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