

Suspect Identified; Officers Involved Named in shooting incident on Hazen Rd

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A 27-year-old St. Helens man is dead and the state police officers involved in the shooting incident have been named by the Oregon State Police after investigators spent approximately nine hours overnight piecing together the evidence from what occurred.

Josiah M. Fischer, 27, St. Helens has been identified as the deceased suspect that led OSP troopers through parts of South Columbia County on a high-speed pursuit that ended on Hazen Rd. at the intersection with Stone Rd. in the unincorporated area of Warren.

Columbia 911 Dispatch records show the pursuit had been westbound on Highway 30 (beginning around 6:38 p.m.) between Scappoose and St. Helens, when the suspect turned and went westbound on Millard Rd. at 6:40 p.m. The Suspect took Bachelor Flat Rd. south to Bennett Rd., going westbound on Bennett Rd. The suspect vehicle (black, 1997 Mitsubishi 4-door) continued southbound on Hazen Rd. before going into a ditch at the intersection with Stone Rd. Dispatch was notified of shots fired at 6:44 p.m.

The Oregon State Police today identified the two troopers involved in the incident: Robin May and Justin Oxenrider, both assigned to the St. Helens office.

Two St. Helens Police officers responded to the scene soon after the shooting, and additional law enforcement personnel arrived from the Sheriff's Office and surrounding police agencies soon after that.

The Sheriff's Office is the lead investigating agency in the shooting, and has activated the Columbia County Major Crimes Team to assist with the investigation into the use of deadly force. Agencies participating on the Major Crime Team activation included: Columbia Co. SO, Scappoose PD, St. Helens PD, Vernonia PD and OSP, including a response to the scene from the Oregon State Police Crime Lab. An autopsy on the body was planned to take place today at the State Medical Examiner's Office in Clackamas.

Investigators initially thought the suspect to be female, but corrected this perception once positive identification of the suspect had been made. Mr. Fischer's next of kin has been notified of his death.

The State Police announced that the troopers involved have been placed on paid administrative leave, pending a review of the shooting through the Columbia County District Attorney's Office.

In addition to the Major Crimes Team, the Sheriff's Office also received assistance from the Columbia County Road Department, Columbia River Fire and Rescue and the Columbia 911 dispatch center in managing the scene and shutting down the roadway in the area for nearly nine hours.

The investigation is continuing, and no other information is anticipated for release today.