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PRESS RELEASE

A24-14423 – TOUTLE DEATH INVESTIGATION

JULY 18, 2024

At about 0333 hours of July 17, 2024, Cowlitz 911 received a report of a fire in the 700 block of Sightly Rd in Toutle, Washington. Firefighters with Cowlitz County Fire District 3 responded to the scene and found multiple vehicles on fire. After firefighters put out the fire, they discovered a deceased subject inside one of the vehicles. The Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office responded to conduct a death investigation with assistance from the Cowlitz County Coroner's Office and Cowlitz County District 2 Fire Investigators.

Detectives with the Sheriff's Office were able to determine that the occupied vehicle, a truck, had been parked uphill from other vehicles. The truck appeared to have rolled downhill and then collided with other parked vehicles. A fire is believed to have started near the engine compartment, heavily damaging multiple vehicles.

Detectives have presumptively identified the deceased subject but are awaiting formal identification protocol from the Coroner's Office. An autopsy has been conducted by the Coroner's Office. The autopsy report and toxicology results are pending.

There are no further details available for release at this time.

Troy Brightbill
Chief Criminal Deputy
Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office