



Press Release

Washington State Patrol in-custody Death Investigation 8/9/2022

**PCFIT Activated for Death Investigation
Pierce County, WA August 10th 2022:**

On August 9th, at 7:39 PM, a Washington State Trooper attempted to stop a red Ford truck in the 3700 block of Pacific Avenue in the city of Tacoma. The driver of the truck nearly struck a pedestrian and then ran a red light at 45th Street. Based on those actions the Trooper believed the driver to be severely impaired and continued efforts to stop the vehicle as it continued south on Pacific Avenue.

The Trooper reported the vehicle was traveling 40 mph on sidewalks and was a danger to pedestrians. The driver of the red Ford truck reversed direction just south of 84th street and traveled north on Pacific Avenue. The truck turned east on 84th Street as the driver either jumped or was ejected from the truck. The truck went between a high voltage distribution pole and a light pole, striking the metal light pole before it crashed into a wall on the south side of the AM/PM gas station.

Several other Troopers assisted and reported the subject was waving a gun, later updating it was a knife. The driver was non-compliant and less lethal methods were deployed. The driver was subdued and taken into custody with the assistance of Tacoma Police.

Medical aid responded to attend to the driver. While being treated, the driver attempted to kick Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters. Within minutes the driver stopped breathing and Fire Fighters began CPR. The driver was unable to be revived and was pronounced dead over 30 minutes after CPR had begun.

For Immediate Release 2:00 p.m. PST, August 17, 2022

The Pierce County Force Investigation Team was requested to conduct the investigation by the Washington State Patrol. PCFIT arrived and took control of the investigation.

Pierce County, WA August 17th, 2022: Active Investigation. No updates to report.

Pierce County, WA August 24th, 2022: Active Investigation. No updates to report.

Pierce County, WA August 31st, 2022: Active Investigation. No updates to report.

Pierce County, WA September 7th, 2022: Release of involved officers names.

PCFIT is releasing the names of the involved officers. See below.

WSP Trooper Brian Paine
WSP Trooper Thurman Suddeth
WSP Trooper Travis Brodie
WSP Trooper Scott Madden
WSP Trooper Andrew Ikejeri
TPD Officer Justin Chohrach

Pierce County, WA September 14th, 2022: Active Investigation. No updates to report.

Pierce County, WA September 21st, 2022: Active Investigation. No updates to report.

Pierce County, WA September 28th, 2022: Active Investigation. No updates to report.

Pierce County, WA October 5th, 2022: Active Investigation. No updates to report.

Pierce County, WA October 12th, 2022: Active Investigation. No updates to report.

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Pierce County, WA October 19th, 2022: The PCFIT investigation into this incident revealed that no use of deadly force was used by any of the responding officers. The Pierce County Medical Examiner officially ruled the cause of death as Acute Methamphetamine Intoxication, with contributing factors of Hypertensive Atherosclerotic Cardio Vascular Disease and Obesity. The manner of death was ruled as Accidental. Therefore, the PCFIT Investigation is now complete and closed.

Please contact Lt. Chris Lawler for additional information.

Lt. Lawler can be contacted at the numbers listed below for more information;

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