



Spokane County
— Sheriff —
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News Release

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Crash Claims Tekoa Man

A Tekoa, Washington resident who would have been 18 years old today was killed late Tuesday when he rolled his family's Chevrolet Tahoe on Wheeler Road just north of Painter Road in South Spokane County.

Zachary P. Smith was killed almost instantly when he was thrown from the SUV as it crashed into a ditch and rolled over. Deputies said it appeared he was not wearing safety restraints at the time of the crash.

911 was called about 10:43 p.m. Tuesday by the victim's brother who reported finding the crash, but not the driver. Deputies later learned that the victim had called home when he left a friend's house, but that he never arrived.

The parents went out to look for him, but their vehicle was disabled when they hit a deer. They called the brother who gave them assistance, then began looking for the Tahoe himself.

Investigators Tuesday night said the victim was found about 25 feet from the crashed vehicle. Evidence indicated the Tahoe was northbound on Wheeler when it crossed over the southbound lane, struck a culvert in the ditch and rolled. Excessive speed appeared to be a factor in the crash, they reported.

Smith's family was at the crash scene Tuesday night and is aware of the victim's death.

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