

For Immediate Release

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WSP reminds drivers to buckle up after 2 recent ejection collisions

Bremerton – The Washington State Patrol (WSP) is reminding drivers to make sure they buckle up before hitting the road after a 7-year-old was killed and a 29-year-old woman was seriously injured in two separate collisions. Both victims were unbelted and ejected.

In both collisions, the other occupants of the vehicle who were seat belted suffered either minor or no injuries. According to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, wearing a seatbelt can reduce chances of serious injury or death in a collision by approximately 70 percent.

Andy Calmo Carrillo, 7, of Bremerton was killed November 26 after being ejected from a 1999 Toyota Sienna that lost control on westbound State Route 16 west of Tremont Street in Port Orchard. Andy was sitting in the rear of the van unrestrained and was thrown from the vehicle after it lost control on the wet roadway and struck a guardrail. The vehicle was occupied by Andy's family, all of which were seat belted and uninjured.

Jacqueline V. Brewer, 29, of Shelton was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle with serious injuries Wednesday night after being ejected from a 2006 Ford F150 pickup truck on State Route 101 eight miles north of Hoodsport. The truck, driven by 27-year-old Dustin W. Homan of Shelton, drifted off the roadway after Homan allegedly fell asleep. The truck struck bushes and trees, resulting in Brewer being thrown 80 feet from the vehicle's front passenger seat. She was unbelted at the time of the collision. Homan suffered minor injuries but refused aid at the scene. The vehicle's third passenger, James R. Lucero, 43, of Shelton, was uninjured. Both were wearing their seatbelts.

WSP District 8 troopers have contacted more than 3,300 drivers for failure to wear or improper seatbelt use through November this year. In 2017, District 8 troopers contacted nearly 2,600 drivers for the same violation. Of the 19 fatality collisions investigated by District 8 troopers this year, six involved unrestrained occupants.

Going into the holiday season, WSP District 8 Captain Chris Old is asking for drivers and passengers to take the time to buckle up.

"Our Troopers work hard toward our goal of reducing serious injury and fatality collisions," Captain Old said. "We need the public's help with that mission by making sure they are wearing their seatbelts."

District 8 serves Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific and Wahkiakum counties.