

# Eureka Police Department

604 C Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

## News Release

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January 11th, 2009

**For Immediate Release: Sgt Jim Armstrong (707) 441-4044**

### **Sheriff's Unit Crashes While Assisting EPD in Pursuit of Stolen Car**

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at about 8:52am the Eureka Police received a report of a stolen car parked in the parking lot of Winco at 636 W Harris St. The owner of the stolen car had followed the car to Winco where the driver parked it near the entrance. The passenger got out of the car and went into the store. Officers arrived moments later. The female driver of the stolen car saw the officers and started to flee in the vehicle across the Winco parking lot and then eastbound on Harris Street.

Officers initiated a pursuit of the vehicle which very quickly began fleeing at a very high rate of speed. The vehicle ran the red lights at H and I Streets at speeds estimated at 80mph. The officers discontinued the pursuit very shortly thereafter because it had become too dangerous. While discontinuing the pursuit of the vehicle, they tried to keep the vehicle in sight, and last saw it eastbound on Myrtle Ave from Hall Ave.

A Humboldt County Sheriff's deputy, while responding to back-up EPD units in the pursuit, was approaching Harris and K Streets while using his emergency lights and siren. An eastbound mid-size pickup was stopped at the intersection of K Street. The deputy approached the truck, and attempted to pass it on the left. Just as the deputy's unit began to pass the truck, the driver of the truck began to make a left turn northbound onto K Street. The unit's right front collided with the truck's left front and then veered to the left. The unit hit the curb, drove into the sidewalk, grazed a retaining wall, and then struck a utility pole, shearing it off. The deputy sustained moderate injuries and was transported to St Joseph Hospital by City Ambulance for treatment. The occupants of the truck were uninjured.

PG and E, AT & T, and SuddenLink Communications all responded to the scene to assist with the repair of the utility pole. Power was interrupted for some residents in the immediate area for several hours.

Members of EPD's Volunteer Patrol responded to assist with traffic control.

**The stolen vehicle is a black 2005 Nissan Altima with a California plate of 5GWG391.** It was being driven by an unknown white female adult.

The investigation is continuing. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision at Harris and K Streets, knows the identity of the driver of the stolen vehicle, or knows the location of the stolen vehicle is asked to contact law enforcement immediately and Ofc Tim Jones at the Eureka Police Department – (707) 441-4044.