



# Humboldt County Sheriff's Office

826 Fourth Street, Eureka, CA 95501

**Date:** 07-20-2011

**From:** Sgt. Wayne Hanson

**Subject:** Accidental Death

**Case#** 201104009

On 07-19-2011 at about 0200 hours the Humboldt County Sheriff's was requested to assist the California Highway Patrol and the United States Forest Service in locating a possible traffic accident scene on Forest Service property in the Groves Prairie area of northeast Humboldt County, which borders Trinity County. This area is extremely remote and secluded.

A female caller had called 9-1-1 stating that her boyfriend had been run over by his own pickup truck. The original call came into the Trinity County Sheriff's Office on 07-18-2011. The Trinity County Sheriff's Office searched their County for the accident scene and were unable to locate the scene, because of an unknown exact location of the traffic accident. There are numerous spur roads located off Forest Service property in this remote location.

On 07-19-2011 at about 1100 hours, Humboldt County Sheriff Deputies and emergency medical personal finally located the accident scene. When they arrived on scene they located a deceased male subject age 50. When deputies investigated the scene and spoke to the female witnesses it appeared that the deceased male subject was run over by the pickup truck.

In speaking to the female witness at the scene, Deputies learned that the male subject was cutting firewood with his girlfriend. The male subject was below the front of the pickup truck off a spur road. He was using his pickup's wire winch to pull a piece of a wood log up the hill. While the winch was engaged pulling the log up the hill the pickup truck jumped over the blocks that were beneath the two front tires, causing the pickup truck to go down the hill. The male victim attempted to get into the cab of the pickup to stop his vehicle. At this point the male lost his balance and was run over by his own pickup truck.

The victim's girlfriend had to walk out from the scene to call 9-1-1, because of poor cellular service. The victim's girlfriend then walked back to the victim and stayed with him through out the night. At daybreak on 07-19-2011 she left her boyfriend to walk for help.

The name of the victim is being withheld at this time, pending notification of next of kin. An autopsy is scheduled with the Humboldt County Coroner's Office for exact cause of death.

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Mike Downey

Sheriff