



MEDIA RELEASE

July 6, 2009

Press Release—Grant County Sheriff's Office

**** Two-vehicle fatality collision, 7-miles west of Royal City, Washington ****

July 3rd at approximately 9 PM Sonia De Leon Godinez, 41 of Moses Lake, was driving southbound on Road M SW in her 1992 Honda Accord. Ernesto Acevedo Cruz, 18 of Royal City, was northbound on Road M SW driving a 2000 Mercury Cougar Coupe and collided nearly head-on with Godinez. The collision was near a bridge spanning a lateral irrigation canal and several of the posts and rails were sheared off during the dynamics of the two vehicles colliding.

The Godinez vehicle remained in the roadway but the Acevedo vehicle went into the lateral canal partially submerging in the irrigation water. Godinez was deceased at the scene with apparent chest and head trauma and was removed from the vehicle by the Grant County Coroner. Acevedo was extracted from his vehicle by Fire District 10 personnel and transported to Yakima Memorial Hospital with what appeared to be multiple bone fractures. Acevedo was later transferred to Harborview Hospital in Seattle and was in critical condition.

Alcohol was a factor and a blood draw sample was taken with the assistance of the Washington State Patrol, Yakima detachment. Charges of vehicular homicide are pending the toxicological report from the state crime lab. Acevedo has a prior minor in possession of alcohol in Grant County. There were no other passengers or drivers involved in the head-on collision. County deputies were assisted by Royal City Police in the investigation.