



Ready to Protect,
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NEWS RELEASE

Chris Magnus
Chief of Police

Contact: Pete Dugan
Sergeant / Public Information Office
520-791-4852
On-call PIO: tpdpio@tucsonaz.gov
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police>

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FATAL VEHICLE COLLISION 7300 BLOCK OF EAST VALENCIA ROAD

The Tucson Police Department is actively investigating a fatal collision that occurred last week on Tucson’s East Side.

On September 20, 2018, just after 3:00 a.m., officers from Operations Division East, along with members of the Tucson Fire Department, responded to a serious injury collision in the 7300 block of East Valencia Road. Upon arrival, officers learned three vehicles were involved. Tucson Fire immediately transported the driver of one of the vehicles to Banner University Medical Center with serious injuries. The other two drivers involved were not injured and there were no passengers in any of the vehicles.

After conducting interviews on scene and investigating roadway evidence, officers were able to determine that a 2001 Mitsubishi Gallant was traveling eastbound on Valencia Road when it began to drift across the center lane and into westbound traffic. At the same time, a 2011 Ford F350 and a 2013 Ford F150 were traveling westbound. The driver of the Ford F350 swerved to the right to avoid a collision, however; the Mitsubishi collided with the trailer that the F350 was pulling. After hitting the trailer, the Mitsubishi continued eastbound and collided head-on with the Ford F150.

On September 23, 2018, the driver of the Mitsubishi passed away from his injuries. He was identified as **23-year-old Dalton Vazis**. Next of kin were present at the time of his passing.

There were no indications of impairment and speed does not appear to be a factor in the collision. Detectives with the Tucson Police Traffic Unit are continuing the investigation. Additional details will be released as they become available.

Fatalities Year-To-Date:

<u>For 2017 - 39</u>	<u>For 2018 - 52</u>
Pedestrian - 18	Pedestrian - 22
Bicycle - 1	Bicycle - 2
Motorcycle - 8	Motorcycle – 5

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