
NEWS RELEASE

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TDD: 791-2639

FATAL COLLISION EAST BENSON HIGHWAY AND SOUTH KINO GATEWAY

On January 15, 2012 at approximately 1:05 a.m., officers from the Tucson Police Department's Operations Division South responded to a reported collision on East Benson Highway and South Kino Gateway. Two vehicles were determined to have been involved in the collision, which resulted in serious injuries. An adult female was transported to a local trauma center in life-threatening condition. She succumbed to her injuries a short time later at the hospital. She has been identified as **48-year old Elizabeth G. Acuña**. Next of kin have been notified.

Detectives from the Traffic Investigations Unit responded to the scene to continue the investigation. Detectives examined and collected roadway evidence and interviewed witnesses. Detectives have determined that a **2008 Dodge Charger**, driven by a **41-year old male** with **Acuña** as the front seat passenger, was traveling northbound on South Tucson Boulevard, approaching East Irvington Road. At that intersection, the north/south roadway is Tucson Boulevard south of Irvington and Benson Highway on the north side of Irvington. The driver lost control as the vehicle passed through Irvington and onto Benson Highway, left the roadway northeast of the intersection, and struck roadside objects, including a sign, a light pole, and a wire fence. The driver then turned around in the dirt area, drove back onto Benson Highway, but drove across the northbound lanes then over the raised median, before continuing northwest in the southeast lanes of Benson Highway.

Just southeast of Benson Highway and South Kino Gateway, the Charger struck a **2007 Nissan Altima** head-on in the southeast-bound lanes, while the Charger was still traveling into oncoming traffic. The driver and sole occupant of the Altima, a **26-year old female**, was transported to a local trauma center with serious, non-life threatening injuries. The driver of the Dodge Charger was also transported to a local trauma center with serious, non-life threatening injuries.

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Detectives have determined that alcohol was likely a factor in the collision. The investigation is ongoing. Charges are pending against the male driver of the Dodge Charger.

Fatalities year to date:

For 2011 - 1

1 Pedestrian
0 Bicycle
0 Motorcycle

For 2011 - 3

0 Pedestrian
0 Bicycle
1 Motorcycle

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