



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL
REPORT OF COLLISION - NEWS RELEASE



CHIEF JAMES ABRAMES – CENTRAL DIVISION
CENTRAL DIVISION PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER – MATT RADKE (559) 277-7250
AREA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER - BUTTONWILLOW-426-MARIA PAGANO (661) 764-5580

| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fatal <input type="checkbox"/> Hit & Run <input type="checkbox"/> Injury <input type="checkbox"/> Property Damage | | DATE AND TIME 07/03/09 / 0600 hrs | | INVESTIGATING OFFICER MP Bentley, #15548 | | AREA 426-BUTTONWILLOW CH | | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------|------------------------------|----------|
| LOCATION SR-46 east of Kecks Road | | | | | | WEATHER Clear/ Dry | | | | |
| Persons Involved | Party No. | Age | Sex | Safety Equip. Used | City Of Residence | Dir. | Vehicle Year & Make | Injury | Hospital | Arrested |
| Pending Notification | 1 | 23 | F | NO | Unknown | W | 2002 Honda | FATAL | Kern County Coroner's Office | NO |
| Driver | | | | | | | | | | |
| Julie Rutan | 2 | 48 | F | YES | Eden, NC | E | 2009 Freightliner | NONE | None | NO |
| Passenger | | | | | | | | | | |
| Robert Rutan | 2 | 52 | M | YES | Eden, NC | S | 2009 Freightliner | MINOR | Treated at scene | NO |
| Driver | | | | | | | | | | |
| Raul Gonzalez | 3 | 26 | M | YES | Phoenix, AZ | W | 2011 Volkswagen | NONE | None | NO |
| Passenger | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gricell Rodriguez | 3 | 15 | F | YES | Phoenix, AZ | W | 2011 Volkswagen | NONE | None | NO |
| Passenger | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hazel Gonzales | 3 | 4 | F | YES | Watsonville, CA | W | 2011 Volkswagen | MINOR | Treated at scene | NO |

Fatal victim information releasable through coroner

SUMMARY

P-1 was traveling westbound SR-46 east of Kecks Road in V-1 (Honda) at a high rate of speed. P-1 had previously (minutes earlier) made several legal, high speed passes as witnessed by other motorists. P-1 then came up on several westbound traveling vehicles and due to her speed moved into the eastbound lane in order to pass. P-1 observed V-2 (Freightliner) approaching eastbound SR-46 east of Kecks Road and abruptly turned V-1 to the right but lost control as she re-entered the westbound lane. P-1 then over-corrected to the left in order to avoid running off the roadway. V-1 crossed back into the eastbound traffic lane as it rotated in a counter-clockwise motion. The right front of V-1 collided into the front of V-2 after which V-2 slid to a stop blocking both traffic lanes of SR-46. V-2 caught fire as P-2 (J. Rutan) and her passenger (R. Rutan) exited their vehicle. Passenger Rutan sustained a minor cut on his foot and was treated on scene. As a result of the initial impact, P-1, who was not wearing her seatbelt, was ejected from V-1 through the rear window causing immediate fatal injuries. V-1 careened over the north shoulder coming to rest just north of the roadway. P-3 (R. Gonzalez) who had just been passed by V-1 moved to the right shoulder in order to avoid the collision occurring in front of him. Debris from the impact between V-1 and V-2 was then sent airborne, striking the left side of V-3 (Volkswagen). V-3's sunroof was open and an unknown piece of debris struck passenger H. Gonzalez who was seated in the middle rear seat of V-3. Passenger H. Gonzalez sustained a minor scratch and was treated on scene. SR-46 was closed for approximately 8 1/2 hours as the cleanup took place.

****FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT PIO BUTTONWILLOW-426-MARIA PAGANO (661) 764-5580**

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| SUBMITTED BY OFFICER Buttonwillow CHP/ CVTMC- GTT | DATE AND TIME 07/03/09 / 1830 | CORONERS CASE NUMBER |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|