Brake/gas confusion drives couple off landing in Pacific County, killing passenger

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

Posted on : November 15, 2013 at 7:54 pm

DOTY, Wash. - Confusing the gas for the brake sent a couple over a landing in Pacific County, killing the passenger. The Pacific County Sheriff's Department tells us the driver, a 70 year old man had to be extricated, and was life-flighted from the scene, a female passenger did not survive the accident. Lieutenant Jim Bergstrom tells us the 2013 Ford F150 appears to have rolled several times before striking a tree over 1500 feet from the road.On November 11th, deputies with the Pacific County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a vehicle that had driven off the end of a landing. The first report indicated the accident may have occurred in Lewis County. Lewis County Sheriff's Office responded to the location and determined the accident had occurred in Pacific County.
The Pacific County Sheriff's Department tells us Raymond aid and Lewis County volunteer Fire/Aid responded to the scene. The driver, age 70, had to be extricated from the vehicle, and was life-flighted from the scene. A female passenger did not survive the accident and was later removed by members of the Pacific County Sheriff's Office, Washington State DNR Officers and Washington State Patrol Officers.

The Pacific County Sheriff's investigation shows that the driver had driven down to the end of a landing, had attempted to hit the brake, however hit the accelerator driving off the end of the landing. The vehicle appears ho have rolled several times before striking a tree and coming to a stop. The distance the vehicle travelled after leaving the roadway was estimated to be in excess of 1500 feet before it came to a stop.

The vehicle a 2013 Ford F-150 was determined to be a total loss. The driver is recovering from the incident in a hospital, he is expected to survive.