



Richmond Police Department

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UPDATE - JULY 28th, 2017:

The victim who died as a result of injuries sustained in the fatal motor vehicle accident on Heaton Orchard Road was identified as **Joy O'Leary**, age 37, of Charlestown, RI. Please keep the victim and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you,
Chief Elwood Johnson

FATAL MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

On Thursday, July 27th, 2017, at approximately 1:14 AM, the Richmond Police Department received a 911-call reporting a single car motor vehicle crash in the area of 20 Heaton Orchard Road. Members of the Richmond Police Department arrived to find a heavily damaged 1996 Honda Accord in a ditch on the eastern side of the roadway, and a deceased 37-year-old female victim who had been ejected from the vehicle. Officers conducted a thorough search for the operator who could not be located at the scene. The Richmond Police Department was assisted at the scene by the Rhode Island State Police, and a Warwick Police Department Canine Unit, along with members of the Hope Valley Ambulance Corps and the Carolina Fire Department. Police conducted an extensive search of the wooded area and nearby outbuildings in search for the operator with negative results. Four hours after the crash, at approximately 5:25 AM, after the deceased victim had been removed from the scene and first responders had cleared from the area, officers on roving patrol located the suspect operator, **Rudolph V. Alexander**, age 36, of 4165 South County Trail, Charlestown, walking along Heaton Orchard Road approximately 300 feet from the crash site. He was taken into custody and afforded medical aid by members of the Hope Valley Ambulance at the police station, and then Kent Count Hospital for minor injuries sustained in the crash.

Police conducted accident reconstruction at the scene of the crash and determined that the operator had traveled north on Heaton Orchard Road at a high rate of speed (in a posted 25-MPH-zone) and at a right bearing curve, he traveled into the opposite lane of travel for nearly 380 feet before losing control and exiting the roadway where the driver's side of his vehicle sideswiped a standing tree before striking a large tree head-on. The impact from the head-on collision caused the vehicle to spin violently across the roadway in a counter-clockwise manner ejecting the female passenger who was not wearing a seatbelt. The name of the deceased victim is being withheld pending notification to additional family members.

Mr. Alexander was processed at the station, and charged with a felony count of **Duty to Stop - Leaving the Scene of an Accident Resulting in the Death of a Person**. He was arraigned in 4th District Court on the above charge, and bail was set at \$10,000 surety. Mr. Alexander was ordered held without bail and remanded to the ACI's Intake Service Center on a bail violation stemming from a separate matter in which he was charged with *Leaving the Scene of an Accident with Damage to Attended Vehicle* by the Westerly Police Department on May 13, 2017. The investigation into the crash is active and ongoing.