



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Justin Wyatt
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE (UPDATED 3-7-19)

UPD CASES #18-2349

DATE: 09-14-18

TIME: 1:00 PM

LOCATION: HASTINGS RD. AT TALMAGE RD.

On 9-14-18 at approx. 1300 hours, UPD officers, UVFA crews, and medical were dispatched to the intersection of Hastings Rd. and Talmage Rd. for a traffic collision involving a commercial dump truck and a bicyclist. The bicyclist was fatally injured as a result of the collision. UPD detectives, MCSO, and the District Attorney Investigators assisted in the investigation. The investigation is on-going.

Anyone with any additional information is urged to contact Ukiah PD at 707-463-6262.

UPDATE 3-7-19

Ukiah PD obtained video evidence that captured the collision and moments just prior to the collision. Numerous independent witnesses, as well as involved parties were interviewed. At the time of the collision, Hastings Rd. was being paved and the intersection was being controlled by a flagger.

Just prior to the collision, the dump truck was travelling E/B on Talmage Rd. Samuel Lara was riding a bicycle E/B on the right hand shoulder of Talmage Rd. Lara was behind the dump truck and was travelling faster than the dump truck. The dump truck had slowed down and had been signaled by the flagger to turn S/B on to Hastings Rd. While the dump truck slowed down, and began to initiate its turn, Lara was slightly behind the dump truck. As the dump truck was in the process of turning, Lara began to overtake the dump truck. The flagger yelled at Lara in an attempt to stop Lara from proceeding. Witnesses also reported hearing the flagger yelling at Lara to stop. As the dump truck continued to make the right turn, Lara appeared to veer to the right of the dump truck. Lara's bicycle and the right front of the dump truck collided. The driver felt that he had ran over something and immediately stopped the dump truck. The driver of the dump truck reported he never saw Lara prior to the collision. Lara died at the scene as a result of injuries sustained at the time of the collision.

After conducting an extensive and thorough investigation, UPD determined Lara had caused the collision by attempting to overtake the dump truck on the right hand side of the vehicle, in violation of 21755(a) CVC. Lara also reportedly failed to obey the instructions of the flagger, in violation of 21367(b) CVC. The cause of the collision was based upon the physical evidence at the scene, video footage collected and viewed, as well as witness statements.