

Why did driver cross centre line in double fatality? Police checking

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First responders at the scene of the accident. The highway was closed for a 12-kilometer stretch Monday evening for clean-up.
Photo: Chris Donovan/Telegraph-Journal

WELSFORD • RCMP are trying to determine why a New Brunswick driver crossed the centre line, causing a head-on collision that left two people dead.

A 21-year-old Cumberland Bay man and a 39-year-old woman from Fredericton were killed in the two-vehicle crash Monday afternoon. The car driven by the man crossed the centre line on Route 7, police

said in a media statement. RCMP are not releasing the names of the victims at the request of the families.

RCMP Sgt. Alain Desrosiers said the sky was overcast at the time of the collision, with dry pavement.

He said the area of the two-lane highway has a solid double line, and that the collision reconstruction team was going through the data to complete a report. It is unclear when they will be done their report, said Desrosiers, but it would likely be several weeks. It is not a known area for collisions, he added.

The collision occurred between a red Chevrolet Cobalt and a white Dodge Calibre. Both were 2010 models, said Desrosiers.

Desrosiers said they do not think alcohol was a factor in the collision, but they have not yet received toxicology reports. It is also unclear if speed was a factor, said the RCMP.

“There was nothing at the scene to make us think alcohol was a factor,” Desrosiers said.

Both drivers died at the scene just outside Welsford, near kilometre marker 62, RCMP said.

First responders were called to the accident at about 4:10 p.m, according to Welsford fire Chief David MacCready. The drivers were the lone occupants of the vehicles.

Route 7 was closed for about five hours Monday evening between Exit 71 and 63, which is about a 12-kilometre stretch.

When the Telegraph-Journal arrived on the scene around 6:30 p.m. on Monday, the Cobalt had heavy damage on the front and was being loaded onto a tow truck on one side of the two-lane section of highway. On the other side of the highway, the Calibre had rolled onto its roof about 20 feet away from the road.

Desrosiers said that according to witnesses, the Calibre flipped onto its roof after the collision and slid to where it was found by emergency responders.

The highway reopened at approximately 9 p.m., around the same time the fire department left the scene, said MacCready.

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