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U.S. Customs and

Border Protection

(/)

CBP Statement - Three fatalities in Arizona motor vehicle accident.

Release Date: August 9, 2021

On August 7, 2021, at approximately 7:09 PM, a Jeep Liberty fled eastbound on State Road 86 (SR 86) after circumventing the primary inspection area of the U.S. Border Patrol Checkpoint located near Three Points, AZ. Border Patrol Agents (BPAs) assigned to the Tucson Border Patrol Station travelled eastbound on SR 86 attempting to locate the vehicle. A CBP Air and Marine Operations (AMO) helicopter crew responded to the area and located the vehicle travelling eastbound on SR 86. The AMO helicopter crew provided aerial surveillance of the vehicle providing updates as to its location to BPAs on the ground. The AMO pilot observed the Jeep Liberty drive erratically through several red lights as it continued into Tucson, AZ. The vehicle then entered onto northbound I-19, which is approximately 24 miles east of the SR 86 checkpoint.

The AMO pilot continued to monitor the vehicle as it merged onto westbound I-10. A National Guard helicopter relieved the AMO helicopter crew near Marana, AZ, and continued the aerial surveillance of the vehicle.

With the assistance of air support, BPAs located the vehicle on I-10. At approximately 7:57 PM, a BPA attempted to stop the Jeep Liberty by deploying a Vehicle Immobilization Device (VID) on I-10, approximately 39 miles northwest of Tucson near Picacho Peak. The driver of the Jeep Liberty lost control, crossed the median and struck a tractor trailer in the eastbound lanes of travel. As a result of the impact, the vehicle traveled back into the median and caught fire. BPAs immediately requested emergency medical services (EMS), pulled several occupants from the vehicle, and rendered aid. There was a total of eleven occupants in the vehicle, to include two unidentified individuals who were declared deceased on the scene.

Life Flight EMS responded to the scene and transported two individuals to the Banner University Medical Center Main Campus (BUMC-Main), to include an unidentified male individual, who was later pronounced deceased by medical personnel. Six individuals were transported via ground ambulance

to BUMC-Main. One individual was transported to the Tucson Coordination Center (TCC) but subsequently transported to BUMC-South Campus for evaluation.

This incident is being investigated by Homeland Security Investigations, the Arizona Department of Public Safety and reviewed by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Professional Responsibility. The Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General was notified of the incident.

More information regarding VIDs can be found in Chapter Four of CBP's ***Use of Force Policy*** (https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2021-Jul/cbp-use-of-force-policy_4500-002A.pdf).

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between official ports of entry. CBP is charged with securing the borders of the United States while enforcing hundreds of laws and facilitating lawful trade and travel.

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Tags: Accountability and Transparency

