



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: December 21, 2023, around 8:51 a.m.
Incident: 2023-1909750
Location: 3500 West Thunderbird Road
Victim: Ashley Vailes, 19-year-old, deceased

UPDATE: December 21, 2023

The victim in this case has been identified as 19-year-old Ashley Vailes. The scene investigation is complete, and the intersection has officially been opened up.

Additional information, to include witness statements and video surveillance footage, has led investigators to determine that the car driven by Vailes entered the intersection on a red light just prior to the collision. Additional details about this incident remain part of the ongoing investigation.

Sergeant Rob Scherer
Public Affairs Bureau

Mid-Morning Collision Leaves One Dead; Officer Involved

(December 21, 2023) Phoenix Police detectives are investigating a north valley collision involving a marked Phoenix Police vehicle, that left a one driver dead.

On December 21, 2023, around 9:00 a.m., an officer, while transporting a prisoner in a marked Phoenix Police patrol vehicle, was involved in a collision at the intersection of 35th Avenue and Thunderbird Road. After the initial collision, the other vehicle involved in the collision collided with a nearby pole and eventually ignited on fire. The Phoenix Fire Department arrived on scene and extinguished the fire. The occupant inside was pronounced deceased on scene. The officer and prisoner were both transported to local hospitals and are both expected to survive.

Detectives responded to take over the investigation. Preliminary information suggests that the officer was making a south bound turn onto 35th Avenue from west bound on Thunderbird Road. The officer was involved in the collision with the other vehicle, that was traveling eastbound on Thunderbird Road. What led up to the collision remains part of the ongoing investigation.

Sergeant Rob Scherer
Public Affairs Bureau

