

THURSTON COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

STATUS: CLOSED

ORI #: WA0340000
OWNER: AULT C 1P32

INFORMATION REPORT 20-000172

| | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Report Type INFORMATION REPORT | Report Date/Time 01/09/2020 | Reporting Officer AULT C 1P32 | |
| Incident Type DEATH INVESTIGATION | Incident Date/Time 01/09/2020 10:51:00 | Originator (if different) AULT C 1P32 | |
| Occurred From Date/Time 01/09/2020 10:15:00 | Occurred To Date/Time 01/09/2020 11:56:00 | Arresting Officer | |
| Location | Address 16340 VAIL LOOP RD SE SKOOKUMCHUCK WIND FARM T-11 RAINIER, WA 98576 | Beat E | Location Grid: X Y Y 26 |
| Short Synopsis INFORMATIONAL REPORT. INDUSTRIAL DEATH. TRENCH CAVED IN ON WORKERS. | | | |

Involved Party

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Party # 1 | Party Type DECEASED PERSON | Party Name <NON-DISC.>STRINGER, JONATHAN FRANKLIN <input type="checkbox"/> Business | | | | DOB 5/4/1995 | Age 24 |
| Gender M | Race AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASI | Hair BROWN | Eyes BROWN | Height 5'4" | Weight 115 | DL # | State |
| Home Address 698 5TH AV E : P.O. BOX 1093 | | City TENINO | State WA | Zip 98589 | Phone (360) 508-8307 | | |
| Business Address 1723 BISHOP RD | | City CHEHALIS | State WA | Zip 98532 | Bus.Phone (360) 264-5011 | | |
| VICTIM INFO [VICTIM TYPE] INDIVIDUAL INJURY [PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN] YES INJURY TYPE NONE AKA <NON-DISCLOSURE> STRINGER, JONATHAN FRANKLIN AGE: 24 [AKA NAME] STRINGER, JONATHAN F , DECEASED, 01/09/2020 PER FIR OTHER PHONE [CELL] (360) 508-8307 [OTHER] (360) 264-5011 | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|-------|--------|-----------|------|-------|
| Party # 2 | Party Type INVOLVED PARTY | Party Name <NON-DISC.> 304P <input type="checkbox"/> Business | | | | DOB | Age |
| Gender | Race | Hair | Eyes | Height | Weight | DL # | State |
| Home Address | | City | State | Zip | Phone | | |
| Business Address | | City | State | Zip | Bus.Phone | | |
| VICTIM INFO [VICTIM TYPE] INDIVIDUAL INJURY TYPE NONE | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|------|-------|
| Party # 3 | Party Type INVOLVED PARTY | Party Name <NON-DISC.> [REDACTED] 304P | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | DOB | Age | | |
| Gender | Race | Hair | Eyes | Height | Weight | DL # | State |
| Home Address | | City | State | Zip | Phone | | |
| Business Address | | City | State | Zip | Bus.Phone | | |
| VICTIM INFO [VICTIM TYPE] INDIVIDUAL INJURY TYPE NONE | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|------|-------|
| Party # 4 | Party Type INVOLVED PARTY | Party Name <NON-DISC.> [REDACTED] 304P | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | DOB | Age | | |
| Gender | Race | Hair | Eyes | Height | Weight | DL # | State |
| Home Address | | City | State | Zip | Phone | | |
| Business Address | | City | State | Zip | Bus.Phone | | |
| VICTIM INFO [VICTIM TYPE] INDIVIDUAL INJURY TYPE NONE | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|------|-------|
| Party # 5 | Party Type INVOLVED PARTY | Party Name <NON-DISC.> [REDACTED] 304P | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | DOB | Age | | |
| Gender | Race | Hair | Eyes | Height | Weight | DL # | State |
| Home Address | | City | State | Zip | Phone | | |
| Business Address | | City | State | Zip | Bus.Phone | | |
| VICTIM INFO [VICTIM TYPE] INDIVIDUAL INJURY TYPE NONE | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|------|-------|
| Party # 6 | Party Type INVOLVED PARTY | Party Name <NON-DISC.> [REDACTED] 304P | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | DOB | Age | | |
| Gender | Race | Hair | Eyes | Height | Weight | DL # | State |
| Home Address | | City | State | Zip | Phone | | |
| Business Address | | City | State | Zip | Bus.Phone | | |
| VICTIM INFO [VICTIM TYPE] INDIVIDUAL INJURY TYPE NONE | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------|-----------|------|-------|
| Party # 7 | Party Type INVOLVED PARTY | Party Name <NON-DISC.> | <input type="checkbox"/> Business 304P | | | DOB | Age |
| Gender | Race | Hair | Eyes | Height | Weight | DL # | State |
| Home Address | | City | State | Zip | Phone | | |
| Business Address | | City | State | Zip | Bus.Phone | | |
| VICTIM INFO [VICTIM TYPE] INDIVIDUAL INJURY TYPE NONE | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------|-----------|------|-------|
| Party # 8 | Party Type INVOLVED PARTY | Party Name <NON-DISC.> | <input type="checkbox"/> Business 304P | | | DOB | Age |
| Gender | Race | Hair | Eyes | Height | Weight | DL # | State |
| Home Address | | City | State | Zip | Phone | | |
| Business Address | | City | State | Zip | Bus.Phone | | |
| VICTIM INFO [VICTIM TYPE] INDIVIDUAL INJURY TYPE NONE | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--------|-----------|------|-------|
| Party # 9 | Party Type INVOLVED PARTY | Party Name <NON-DISC.> | <input type="checkbox"/> Business 304P | | | DOB | Age |
| Gender | Race | Hair | Eyes | Height | Weight | DL # | State |
| Home Address | | City | State | Zip | Phone | | |
| Business Address | | City | State | Zip | Bus.Phone | | |
| VICTIM INFO [VICTIM TYPE] INDIVIDUAL INJURY TYPE NONE | | | | | | | |

Modus Operandi

WHERE OCCURRED
FIELD/WOODS

Additional Case Data

| | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|
| Case NO. 20-000172 | Title | Case Type | Court File Date |
| Case Group | OCA No. | Case Manager <NONE> | Assign Date |
| Crime Report No. | Lead Procecutor | | |
| Copies Sent To LABOR AND INDUSTRY, CHESO | Case Status CLOSED | Clearance NOT APPLICABLE [DATE] 01/13/2020 | Disposition VALID [DATE] 01/13/2020 |
| Reviewed By | | Reviewd By Date | |
| Consolidation File No. | Prosecutor | Further Action | |

Narrative Data

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| No. | Description | Author |
| | 20-00172 REPORT 1P32 | AULT, CHARLES F |



THURSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INCIDENT REPORT

Year-Case Number: 20-00172

Deputy: C. Ault

ID Number: 1P32/A4192

Date: 01-09-2020

Person(s)/Items Entered

WACIC:

NCIC:

Signed Stolen Attached:

List other documents attached reference case:

Photographs of the Scene

Narrative:

On Thursday, January 9, 2020, at approximately 1051 hours, **304P** called 911 and reported he has two employees that are trapped and buried in a trench that collapsed. **304P** reported the employees are on a remote jobsite about 15 miles past the gate on the Skookumchuck Wind Farm located at 16340 Vail Loop Rd SE near Rainier, Washington. **304P** reported the workers are at jobsite T-11.

At approximately 1101 hours, I was dispatched the call and responded from Rochester, Washington.

At approximately 1116 hours, I arrived at the main office at 16340 Vail Loop Rd SE. I contacted one of the security workers and he escorted me to the correct gate which is located Vail Loop Rd SE and Gordon Rd SE. Gordon Rd SE is gated and the area is owned by Weyerhaeuser Company. I observed one fire engine and another fire department vehicle parked at the gate. Addition RES America employees were at the gate. I informed one of the employees to either give directions or escort me and the ambulance that arrived on scene just behind me to scene. The employee escorted myself and the ambulance through multiple different logging roads to the scene.

Due to the lack of cell service in the area, I contacted dispatch via police radio and gave direction and road numbers while driving to the scene, to give any other emergency personnel direction to the jobsite.

Site T-11 is at the GPS location 46.75207 -122.6218363, believed to be about six to eight miles inside of Lewis County.

At approximately 1153 hours, I arrived on scene at the jobsite. As I approached the scene I observed two ambulances on scene. I approached the ambulance

closet to the scene and observed about 25 employees in the area. I was contacted by [REDACTED] 304P who works for GEMS as a medic and rescue personnel. [REDACTED] 304P informed me, there is one fatality and one critical, the critical person is the ambulance. I knocked on the ambulance door and observed the ambulance to have about 5 medics and the patient in the back.

I advised police dispatch of the situation.

I approached the scene and observed a trench about 50ft long going north and south. The trench was of various depths from about 1ft to about 12ft. and about 18-36in wide. I started to photograph the area. There is multiple small water drainages gathering on the east side of the logging road and flowing into a 12in black plastic culvert. The culvert runs through the trench east to west. There was about 2-4in of snow on the ground and it was currently snowing and the temperature was about 31 degrees per my police vehicle. At the south end of the trench was a track-hoe/excavator sitting with its tracks across the trench. I observed a black pipe an employee informed was a "SLEEVE", used to run cable through. I observed multiple shovels in the trench. I observed no shoring equipment in the trench.

I was contacted by [REDACTED] 304P the site foreman for RES America. [REDACTED] 304P stated the workers were assigned the task of digging the trench in the road and get the SLEEVE under culvert, due to the cable cannot be ran over the top of a culvert.

I continued investigate the scene when I was approached by a Thurston County Fire Battalion Chief, who requested I stay clear the edge of the trench. The Battalion Chief informed me, they will be attempting to get the patient down the mountain in the ambulance to a Landing Zone, to medi-vac him to Harborview.

I walked back to the ambulance to see how I could assist to get the task done. I assisted the medics to get chains on the rear tires of the ambulance and assisted with getting other vehicles out of the way. The logging road is narrow and there was a turn out about 300 yards back.

The patient was later identified as [REDACTED] 304P and the deceased was identified as Jonathan Stringer.

I contacted [REDACTED] 304P and inquired further on the identities of the men. [REDACTED] 304P stated the he knew the deceased as "Lil Jon" and the patient as [REDACTED] 304P unknown last name.

I contacted [REDACTED] 304P safety manager for RES America. [REDACTED] 304P stated the deceased's name is Jon Stringer and the patient is [REDACTED] 304P [REDACTED] 304P was attempting to gather all the employees together and get them off of the scene and down to the safety building at the main camp/office on Vail Loop

Rd SE. **304P** informed me, he was going to hold a debriefing for the employees and get statements for his internal investigation. **304P** was given a business card with case number and the contact number for dispatch.

I heard an employee say something about he stopped hearing Jonathan after he was digging for four minutes. I attempted to find out who made the comment no one would own up to the statement.

I observed a lot of the employees too upset and crying. I informed **304P** to speak with the employees and see if any of them would like to speak with a chaplain, if so to call police dispatch and give them the case number and let the dispatcher know I was the one who instructed him to call.

I contacted the Thurston County Fire Battalion Chief and asked about his ideas to safely get Jonathan's body out of the trench. Jonathan is about 6ft south of the culvert and about 12ft in the trench. Jonathan's torso and left arm were exposed but were cover with a yellow blanket. The Battalion Chief said the safest he can think of at the moment is to use the excavator/track-hoe to remove the dirt to the west of Jonathan and to the south of Jonathan in about 20ft wide sections to prevent another cave in on first responders. The culvert will need to be left in place due the water flowing through the culvert can flood the trench. Battalion Chief informed me it would probably take a minimum of five hours to get Jonathan out.

I overheard an update over fire radio Washington State Division of Labor and Industries will not be coming to the scene but requested law enforcement photograph the scene. I overheard over fire radio the Thurston County Coroner's Office requested the scene be left intact until they arrive and document the scene first.

At approximately 1327 hours, Deputy Clark and Deputy Campbell arrived on scene. I briefed both of the deputies on the situation.

Deputy Clark and Deputy Campbell left the scene. Deputy Clark was requested to stage up at the intersection of Vail Loop Rd SE and Gordon Rd SE to keep unauthorized personnel off of the private property and away from the scene. Deputy Campbell cleared the call to handle other calls.

Moments later I was informed by fire personnel the company was going to perform the death notification to the next of kin, Ashley Edwards, Jonathan's sister.

At approximately 1440 hours, Sgt. Mancillas arrived on scene. I briefed Sgt. Mancillas of the situation and escorted him through the scene. Sgt. Mancillas and I was informed the Thurston County Deputy Coroner was on their way up the

mountain. A fire chief stated they would stay at the scene and work with deputy coroner.

Sgt. Mancillas and I made our way back the mountain.

I contacted [REDACTED] 304P at the safety building. Apparently most of the employees were released to go home for the day.

I was introduced to [REDACTED] 304P was on scene during the incident. [REDACTED] 304P stated he was the equipment operator of the three man team working on getting the SLEEVE under the culvert. [REDACTED] 304P used the track-hoe to make the trench. [REDACTED] 304P said they usually only have to dig a trench three to four feet deep, but due to the location angel of the culvert he had to dig the trench about 15ft.

[REDACTED] 304P stated the crew got the SLEEVE ready to lay in the trench and [REDACTED] 304P moved the track-hoe about 40-50ft away and shut off the engine.

[REDACTED] 304P stated Jonathan, [REDACTED] 304P and himself were discussing the best way to get the SLEEVE slid into place under the culvert. [REDACTED] 304P took upon himself and climbed down in the trench and attached a strap around one end of the SLEEVE and was on his hands and knees trying to feed the strap under the culvert. The plan was to use the bucket on the track-hoe to pull the SLEEVE in position. As [REDACTED] 304P almost done feeding the strap under the culvert, a piece of the east side of the trench caved in on [REDACTED] 304P completely covering him with about 12-18in of dirt and rock. [REDACTED] 304P climbed into the trench on the north side of [REDACTED] 304P and the culvert and Jonathan climbed into the trench south of [REDACTED] 304P

[REDACTED] 304P stated as he and Jonathan were getting [REDACTED] 304P freed, by using their bare hands, when a large section of the eastside of the trench gave way completely buried Jonathan and [REDACTED] 304P was buried up to his knees. [REDACTED] 304P had a portable radio on his hip but could not get reception in the trench. [REDACTED] 304P dug himself out and climbed out of the trench and used the radio to call for help.

[REDACTED] 304P stated he thinks the second cave in happened sometime between 1015 and 1020 hours.

[REDACTED] 304P stated he climbed back down in the trench and began digging with his hands. [REDACTED] 304P could hear both men screaming through the dirt and rock.

[REDACTED] 304P stated other co-workers started to show up with shovels. [REDACTED] 304P and the others were running out of room to put the dirt. [REDACTED] 304P brought the track-hoe over and parked it with the tracks across the south end of the trench and carefully started moving the dirt out of the way. [REDACTED] 304P had a good idea where both men were at.

304P stated it was only a couple co-workers at first and by the end there was about 25 employees in all helping. The co-workers had to take turns digging due to the tight space and fatigue.

304P stated 304P was located with his head under the culvert and possible his left arm. They got 304P out as safely as they could and kept trying to get to Jonathan.

304P stated about 30 minutes had pasted before he stopped hearing Jonathan. 304P stated they kept digging until they located Jonathan's left arm, torso and neck. Jonathan was not responsive and the GEMS medics could not find a pulse.

I was introduced to 304P stated he was at jobsite T-7 and believes he heard 304P calling for help about 1030 hours. 304P figures T-7 is about five miles away from T-11 and took him about 20 minutes due to the weather and terrain. When 304P arrived on scene he could hear both men through the dirt calling out. 304P assessed the situation and quickly drove up to T-15, where he knew he could get cell service. 304P called 304P the site manager for RES America. 304P then returned to the scene.

304P stated when he first got on scene the track-hoe/excavator was about 50ft away next to a large reel of cable.

I spoke with 304P more about getting all of Jonathan and 304P information. 304P introduced me to 304P

304P stated he was first contacted by 304P sometime around 1040 or 1045 hours. 304P called 911 at about 1050 hours. 304P began getting GEMS medics and rescue personnel on site and setting other employees to guide/escort first responders to scene. 304P informed me 304P was the first person scene.

304P was able to make some phone calls out of stated to get Jonathan and 304P full information. 304P also called and had 304P come the office so I could speak with hear.

I worked with the some employees who wanted to know what hospital 304P was at and the address for the hospital. Most of the employees are from out of state and are not familiar with area.

I called Harborview Medical Center and was updated on 304P condition. I was informed 304P left shoulder was dislocated and broken, he has a punctured lung, and not sure about any other injures at this time. 304P was in imaging for possible pelvic fracture and possible internal bleeding.

I was contacted by 304P who stated she is Quality Manager for RES America. 304P was out doing her normal crew checks and had just left the area and

heading to jobsite T-12. 304P said T-12 is about a mile away from T-11. 304P said she heard 304P screaming on the radio for help. 304P said from time to time employees would joke on the radio but she knew from the tone in 304P's voice it was no joke and she headed to T-11.

304P stated when she arrived on scene she realized what was going on and saw 304P in the trench digging with his hands to get to the two men. 304P realized 304P did not have a shovel to use.

304P stated she believed 304P called out over the radio for help about 1015 hours.

304P called 304P and informed him.

304P stated she believes when she got on scene the track-hoe was parked on the south end of the trench.

All the individuals I spoke with did not feel comfortable giving a recorded statement due to their emotional state.

I called and updated Sgt. Mancillas.

I relocated to the gate at Vail Loop Rd SE and Gordon Rd SE to relieve Deputy Clark.

I was notified by police dispatch Sgt. Scull of Lewis Sheriff's Office would like to speak with me.

I called and spoke with Sgt. Scull and informed of the situation and my investigation. Sgt. Scull was provided with names and contact information for parties involved. I informed Sgt. Scull the Thurston County Deputy Coroner is on their way down the mountain and they were not able to get Jonathan out of the trench.

I contacted the Deputy Coroner who stated his supervisor is turning it over to the Lewis County Coroner. The Deputy Coroner informed me, Olympia Fire Chief Buchanan was still at the scene and is waiting to be relieved by a deputy.

I called and spoke with Sgt. Mancillas and requested he work with Sgt. Scull to work out the details for securing the scene. I was informed by employees there are multiple other gates to access the scene.

Sgt. Mancillas called me back and requested I stay at the gate until Sgt. Scull arrives.

At approximately 1942 hours, Sgt. Scull arrived on scene. I was informed a Lewis County Deputy would be on scene for security. I was provided Lewis County case number 20-C380.

I have nothing further at this time please copies of this report to Lewis County Sheriff's Office, Department of Labor and Industries and the Medical Examiner's Office.

C. Ault
1P32/A4192