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Feature

Patrol says it wasn't pursuing motorcyclist

Author: Nick Bonham; The Pueblo Chieftain, Colo.

Industry:

General

Article Text:

July 18--The death of a motorcyclist Tuesday, who reportedly was fleeing from the Colorado State Patrol, was the second fatal accident in Pueblo West involving the patrol in more than a month.

On May 28, two teenagers were killed and three others injured in a single-vehicle, rollover crash after they, too, reportedly were fleeing from troopers in a stolen vehicle.

That crash happened on Wild Horse Road.

On Tuesday, Robert Frye, 31, reportedly fled from troopers on a stolen motorcycle and died after crashing into a dump truck on East McCulloch Boulevard.

The 10th Judicial District's Critical Incident Team was activated to investigate both cases.

The team is a group of investigators from every law enforcement agency in Pueblo County designed to bring fresh eyes to serious incidents involving officers.

District Attorney Bill Thiebaut said he has yet to receive the CIT's report from the May crash.

Since the CIT's inception in 2006, Thiebaut said he's reviewed nine cases, two in which he charged officers.

Trooper Nate Reid said the patrol was not pursuing Frye, who according to radio traffic routinely monitored by The Pueblo Chieftain was clocked traveling on Interstate 25 north of Pueblo at speeds estimated at 130 mph. Frye was clocked by a patrol aircraft.

"This wasn't a chase.

We observed it from the air because we had an airplane in the area. We weren't anywhere near this guy when he crashed," Reid said. Frye didn't stop for troopers on the ground and sped into Pueblo West on North Purcell Boulevard.

While Reid maintained that troopers weren't chasing Frye, they actively were searching for him. Reid said the patrol aircraft had an aerial view of Frye and that officers were trying to intercept him farther in Pueblo West.

"We didn't have a trooper within a mile of this guy when he crashed," Reid said. "We were attempting to get police vehicles in front of him."

Reid said the patrol uses three airplanes to monitor traffic speeds a few times a week. "They're responsible for other things, not just speed enforcement.

They're used multiple times a week across the state. They move them all over the place," Reid said.

nickb@chieftain.com

Memo:

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