MICHAEL KENT
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IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

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Irvine Police Investigating Fatal Traffic Collision

UPDATE: Irvine, Calif. (October 17, 2026) - The collision, separation of the vehicle, and fire caused extensive damage to the McLaren's structure and electrical system. On Wednesday evening, the front section of the vehicle's wreckage spontaneously ignited at a secured tow facility in Costa Mesa, which is contracted by the Irvine Police Department (IPD) to store collision vehicles.

Costa Mesa Fire and Rescue Investigators have been investigating the fire. Preliminary findings, supported by video surveillance, indicate the fire started spontaneously, with no person present or interacting with the vehicle when it ignited. We are releasing a section of the video footage showing the start of the fire. Other vehicles not related to this collision have been blurred out. Please note the footage is sped up.

https://vimeo.com/1236883459/3d66d37c61

Both the collision investigation and fire investigation are ongoing, and we do not have any additional information to share.

UPDATE: Irvine, Calif. (September 17, 2026) - The Orange County Sheriff's Department – Coroner Division has positively identified the occupants of the McLaren as:

- James Wesley Simon Wehr, 27, of Irvine, California.
- Alexis Helena Kramer, 22, of Lakeland, Florida.

Our Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) is conducting an extensive investigation into the collision that will take months to complete. MAIT investigators have clear evidence that shows Wehr was in the driver's seat of the McLaren and Kramer was in the passenger seat at the time of the collision.
Investigators will examine all possible contributing factors to the collision, including roadway and vehicle conditions, the vehicle's speed, and any factors that may have affected Wehr's operation of the McLaren.

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We do not anticipate any other public updates until the investigation is complete.

Irvine, Calif. (September 13, 2026) – Two people have died after a single-vehicle traffic collision.

Today, at 12:18 a.m., the Irvine Police Department (IPD) received calls of a traffic collision with a vehicle on fire at Culver Drive and Deerfield Avenue. IPD and Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) responded to the scene. After OCFA extinguished the fire, two people were found dead inside the vehicle.

The preliminary investigation determined that a 2019 McLaren had stopped northbound on Culver Drive at Deerfield Avenue. When the traffic light turned green, the car traveled northbound at a high rate of speed. The driver lost control of their vehicle, which traveled to the right, where it struck a curb and a tree. The vehicle split in two and caught fire.

The names of the people in the car will not be released until their families are notified.

IPD's Major Accident Investigation Team is investigating the collision. Anyone with information about the collision is asked to contact Detective David Juarez at 949-724-7047.

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