

# Man killed on I-10 after wrecking car, walking away

By Becky Pallack

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A 22-year-old Tucson man was killed when he was struck by two semi-trucks after he crashed his car in the median of Interstate 10 near Orange Grove Road and began walking away around 1 a.m. Friday.

About five minutes before the crash, an officer with the Arizona Department of Public Safety saw a 1984 Pontiac Trans Am going 96 miles per hour on westbound I-10 near Ruthrauff Road, said Officer Jim Oien, a DPS spokesman.

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The officer tried to catch up to the car, but "it went out of sight quickly," Oien said.

When the officer reached Orange Grove, he saw that the driver had crashed the car into the cable barrier in the median, but no one was inside the vehicle, Oien said.

While the officer was checking the scene, he heard a loud noise from nearby eastbound traffic, Oien said.

When he went to investigate, he saw a "grisly scene," Oien said. A man on the pavement had been struck by two semi-trucks and was dead, he said.

The man has been identified as Christopher W. Pullen, the driver of

the Trans Am. Investigators believe Pullen had gotten out of the wrecked car and was crossing the highway when he was hit.

Investigators still are trying to determine why Pullen lost control of the car and whether he was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

In 2004, Pullen pleaded guilty to underage drinking and driving. He completed a diversion program and charges were dismissed, according to a Pima County Justice Court Web site.

No citations were issued to the truck drivers in Friday's incident. One driver was from Texas while the other was from Snowflake.

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