

# SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT  
RESPONSE TEAM

## Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2018-005

Referral from

RCMP - OCC

March 4, 2018

Felix Cacchione  
Director  
October 10, 2018

SiRT was contacted early on March 4, 2018 by the RCMP Operational Communication Centre and advised of a motor vehicle pursuit that resulted in a fatal crash. An investigation was commenced at that time with the SiRT investigator travelling to the scene of the fatal crash. Upon his arrival at the scene it was determined that the single vehicle involved in the crash had not been moved and the driver, the Affected Party (AP) was still in the vehicle and was deceased. Severe trauma to the AP's head was clearly visible. The investigation was completed on September 13, 2018.

**Facts:**

The RCMP in Lower Sackville received a complaint at approximately 10:53 PM from the AP's daughter regarding her father, who was visiting from New Brunswick, having consumed alcohol and intending to drive back to New Brunswick following a verbal dispute between them. A patrol was made to the complainant's residence however, the AP had already left the residence in his vehicle.

At 11 PM the AP was observed driving his vehicle at a normal rate of speed, in a northerly direction on the 102 Highway, toward New Brunswick. Several Witness Officers (WOs), travelling in separate vehicles, attempted to stop the AP by activating their emergency lights and sirens. The AP increased his speed and did not stop. He, at times during the pursuit, performed manoeuvres that prevented the pursuing vehicles from boxing in his vehicle. The AP's speed, in some instances, exceeded 170 km/h. The initial pursuing vehicles were subsequently joined by a police vehicle from the Enfield RCMP detachment. This vehicle took the lead in the pursuit.

The AP's speed fluctuated from the posted speed limit to much higher speeds. The initial two police vehicles pursuing the AP terminated their pursuit after having travelled approximately 47 km in 20 minutes. Witness officers from the Colchester detachment joined the pursuit. A spike belt was deployed near Brookfield. The AP avoided driving over the spike belt, however, one of the pursuing police vehicles did not and was forced to pull over. The pursuit was continued by another police vehicle.

At exit 15, the intersection of highways 102 and 104, the AP began driving in an easterly direction on Highway 104. His speed on this road was well above the posted speed limit. The pursuing police vehicles were advised, by the Risk Manager at the Operational Communication Centre, that should the AP's vehicle leave the 104 Highway the pursuit was to be terminated immediately.

The AP exited Highway 104 at exit 18A and began travelling in a westerly direction on Highway 4 toward Truro. The pursuit was terminated at 11:42 PM once the AP started travelling on Route 4, a secondary road. Eleven minutes later, at 11:53 PM a call reporting that a vehicle had just left the road and crashed into a tree was made to 911.

Footage from a video surveillance camera installed at a private residence on Route 4 shows no police vehicles pursuing the AP at the time of the collision. This evidence corroborates statements made by two civilian witnesses who, after hearing the crash and looking out their window, called 911 to report the collision. The time stamped video footage also shows the arrival of the first officers on scene eight minutes after the collision was reported to 911.

**Conclusion:**

The police pursued the AP based on the information they received regarding his level of intoxication, his intention of driving to New Brunswick and the elevated risk to public safety posed by his driving in this condition. At no time during the pursuit did any police vehicles make contact with the AP's vehicle. The pursuit was terminated, as directed, some 11 minutes prior to the collision. None of the officers involved in the pursuit committed any criminal offence.