

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC & CHP CAR CRASH INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF 22 YEAR OLD MAN FROM ORANGE FOR FURNISHING ALCOHOL TO MINORS

(Orange) – Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) have arrested 22 year old Jeffrey Michael Hale of Santa Ana for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Hale was arrested for violating Sections 25658(a) of the Business and Professions Code and 272(a) (1) of the Penal Code. He is currently being held in the Orange County jail.

The arrest follows a Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies (TRACE) investigation of a fatal crash that occurred on June 16, 2005 in Orange County on Interstate 5 southbound near the Garden Grove Freeway (22) connector.

According to California Highway Patrol records, 18 year old Eric Hanson of Orange was driving a truck that crashed on June 16, 2005 killing 16 year old Alexis Wallace of Orange and causing minor injuries to Hanson and two other teenagers who were riding in the truck. It was determined Hanson had a blood alcohol level of .10 which is above the legal limit. He was arrested on charges of driving under the influence. Records show Hanson was driving southbound on Interstate 5 and failed to negotiate the transition to westbound (22) causing the truck to go airborne and land on its roof killing Wallace.

A CHP officer noticed alcohol at the scene of the crash and contacted ABC. ABC immediately began a TRACE investigation.

Working with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) an ABC Investigator from the ABC's Southern Division conducted the TRACE investigation after receiving the CHP report and analysis of the fatal crash.

The TRACE (Targeting Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies) program is made possible by a California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The grant provides funding for in-depth ABC investigations of serious incidents including car crashes, but also alcohol overdoses, poisonings, assaults that result from alcohol consumption by minors.

For more information contact Judy Matty in ABC's Southern Division Office at 1-562-467-8401