

On August 23rd, 2024, at approximately 0612 hours, I was dispatched to a single-vehicle, unknown-injury collision near the intersection of Wyatt Way NE and Finch Road. The reporting party advised that a white SUV was approximately 20 feet down an embankment and appeared to be occupied by one male who attempted to start the vehicle.

I arrived on scene alongside Bainbridge Island Fire Department, who worked on assessing and extracting the driver from the vehicle, a white 1999 Honda CR-V bearing WA plate [REDACTED], which was facing westbound (toward Eagle Harbor) and leaving heavily to one side approximately 15 feet down the embankment south of Wyatt Way.

I began investigating the collision to determine how it may have occurred. The reporting party advised he located a white side mirror on the ground approximately 100 feet east of where the vehicle came to rest over the embankment. Just west of where the mirror was found, political signs placed in the shoulder were displaced and some were broken, clearly struck by a vehicle. I began to notice tire tracks in the eastbound shoulder of Wyatt Way, (heading westbound to where the vehicle headed over the embankment) indicating the vehicle was likely travelling westbound in the eastbound lane before the collision.

After the driver, [REDACTED], was medically cleared by medical personnel on scene, I contacted him. The odor of alcohol from [REDACTED] was extremely obvious. [REDACTED] claimed the collision occurred after he slid out in the wet conditions attempting a right hand turn onto Wyatt Way from Finch Road. The evidence I observed contradicted [REDACTED]'s story. I asked [REDACTED] if he would be willing to perform SFSTs. I observed distinct and sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation in both of his eyes. I also observed the onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees. [REDACTED] declined the walk-and-turn and one-leg stand tests, citing issues with balance. [REDACTED] agreed to take a preliminary breath test. The results were .247 BAC.

