

\*\*\* For Immediate Release \*\*\*

Captain Neil Weaver  
Government and Media Relations

**Date:** May 17, 2021  
**Contact:** Trooper Rocky Oliphant  
**Email:** Rocky.Oliphant@wsp.wa.gov  
**Phone:** (425) 923-6244  
**Twitter:** @wspd7pio

### Tesla collides with Snohomish County Sheriff Police Vehicle

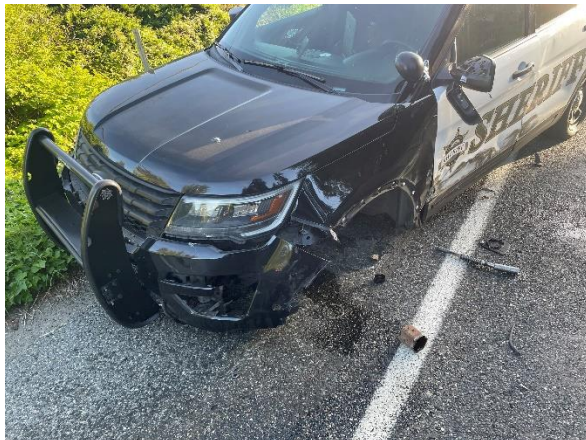
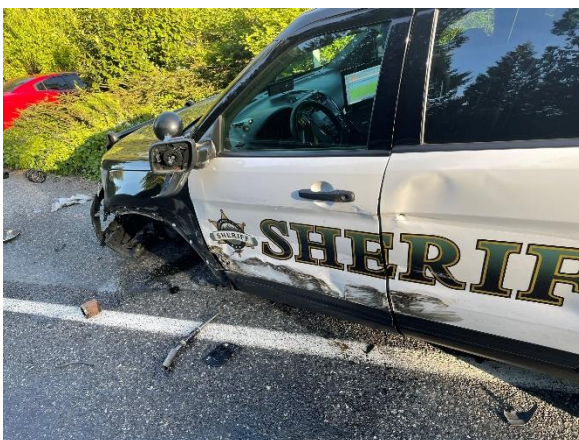
**Snohomish County:** On May 15, 2021 at approximately 6:40pm, the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office requested the Washington State Patrol investigate a collision involving a 2015 Tesla Model S and a Snohomish County Sheriff Ford Explorer patrol vehicle in Arlington.

A Deputy was investigating a one vehicle versus utility pole collision on 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE near SR 530 in Arlington. The deputy had his overhead emergency lights activated at the time and was partially blocking the roadway to protect the collision scene. A 2015 Tesla Model S was approaching the area and struck the left side of the patrol vehicle. Fortunately the Patrol vehicle was unoccupied at the time of the collision and no injuries were sustained by either driver.

While Troopers investigated the collision, the driver of the Tesla claimed that he had the vehicle in "Auto-Pilot mode" and assumed the vehicle would slow and move over on its own. The driver of the Tesla was issued a ticket for the collision.

Regardless of the technology equipped with your vehicle it is ultimately the driver's responsibility for the safe operation of the vehicle while on public roadways.

*Photographs provided by the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office. No photos were taken of the Tesla*



###