

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Date: April 30, 2012

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MOTORCYCLE CRASH AFTER HIGHSPEED CHASE

On Saturday April 28, 2012 at approximately 11:58 a.m. an Officer from the Coalinga Police Department observed a blue Suzuki motorcycle spinning its tires causing black smoke and marks on the roadway at the intersection of Elm and Third Street. Before leaving the intersection the motorcycle sled sideways almost coming into contact with a vehicle stopped next to it.

The rider then took off from the intersection at a high rate of speed. The officer immediately activated his overhead emergency lights and attempted to initiate a traffic enforcement stop. As the motorcycle continued eastbound on Elm Avenue, the rider looked over his shoulder and observed the patrol car behind him. After seeing the patrol car, the motorcycle rider increased his speed gaining distance between him and the patrol car.

The motorcycle rider continued east out of town reaching speeds over 100 mph. The on duty supervisor requested the California Highway Patrol for assistance as the vehicle pursuit had entered the county. The pursuit continued through the hills and then onto eastbound HWY 198 towards Hanford. As the motorcycle rider approached the last curve before the I-5/ HWY 198 area, the rider lost control of his motorcycle and went off the road way. Estimated speed at the time of the collision was 100 mph. As the officer arrived on scene and seeing the motorcycle and rider was down, he immediately notified EMS and tried to keep the rider calm as he had sustained a severe leg injury and possible additional injuries.

The California Highway Patrol responded to the scene and investigated the accident. The rider identified as 22 year old Lemoore resident Andy Diaz was air lifted to RMC in Fresno with serious injuries.

The Coalinga Police Department is seeking charges on Diaz for felony evading a police officer, reckless driving and exhibition of speed.

