



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****

May 6, 2025

UPDATE: Community Helps Identify and Locate Suspect in Deadly Hit-and-Run

On Saturday, May 3, 2025, at approximately 9:45 p.m., officers responded to a collision on southbound Akers Street, just south of Judy Avenue. A vehicle struck a 53-year-old male bicyclist and then fled the scene before officers arrived. The bicyclist was transported to Kaweah Health with serious injuries and tragically passed away from his injuries the following morning.

The suspect vehicle involved was described as a 2018-2020 white Ford F-150.

After releasing photos and videos of the suspect vehicle, the Visalia Police Department received numerous tips from the community. Thanks to several vigilant citizens who contacted the department, valuable information was gathered that greatly assisted in the investigation.

These leads directed members of the Visalia Police Department's Motor Unit to the city of Delano, where they located the suspect vehicle. Today, the driver, identified as 33-year-old James Hand, was contacted and taken into custody in Visalia.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the public for your overwhelming support. The tips, photos, and videos you provided were key in helping solve this case. Your assistance made a significant difference, and we are TRULY thankful for your help.

