

PRESS RELEASE

Date: October 26, 2016

Subject: Death investigation near Rifle, CO victim identified.

Associated Press Release: None

Identity of Deceased: Juan Manuel Tapia Tequida, 30 year old Male, resident of Grand Junction, CO (Alias: Efrain Cortez)

On October 25, 2016, the Garfield County Coroner's Office was dispatched to the area of Grass Mesa Road, Rifle, CO 81650, for a death investigation. Coroner's Office investigators arrived to the scene of a construction site involving the installation of a pipeline. Three heavy duty 12 inch diameter, 60 foot long pipes were staged at the edge of a trench. It's estimated the pipes weighed between 1200lbs and 2000lbs each. The initial reports indicate that the decedent accidentally loosened a board the pipes were resting on. The pipes then started to roll trapping the decedent underneath as the decedent and pipes went into the trench.

The decedent was pronounced dead on scene by coroner investigators. Colorado River Fire Rescue and the Garfield County Sheriff's Office responded. The victim is identified as Juan Manuel Tapia Tequida, a 30 year old male and resident of Grand Junction, CO. Mr. Tapia Tequida was an employee of a construction company contracted to install the pipeline. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has been notified of the workplace fatality.

On October 26, 2016, an autopsy was performed by the Garfield County Coroner's Office contract forensic pathologist in Grand Junction, CO. The decedent's cause of death is blunt force trauma to the head and the manner of death is accident.

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