



Libby Police Department
Libby Montana
Chief Cody Ercanbrack

Libby MT, 59923
(406) 293-3343

News Release

Contact: Libby Police Chief Cody Ercanbrack

January 15, 2024

Stolen Vehicle - Pursuit / Libby, Montana

At 3:32 pm on January 13, 2023, a male suspect intentionally crashed his pickup into the side of a home on Dakota Avenue in Libby, Montana.

The suspect then attached a tow strap to a parked vehicle and stole the vehicle by dragging it through town. While towing the stolen vehicle he struck multiple uninvolved vehicles as well as a residential fence and an electrical pole. The towed/stolen vehicle flipped on its side and continued to be dragged south on California Ave.

A Libby Police Officer located the vehicle at California Ave., near the intersection of Highway 2. The Officer attempted to stop the vehicle, but the male suspect failed to stop and continued to drag the vehicle east on Highway 2. A slow speed pursuit ensued through town. During the pursuit, a pickup with a plow attached stopped in the roadway and was struck with the towed stolen vehicle. The suspect vehicle's tow strap broke off leaving the stolen vehicle in the roadway. The suspect then drove north on California Ave., leaving the city limits.



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Libby Police Officers and Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputies continued to pursue the vehicle West on Pipe Creek Road. The pursuit increased in speed and became a high-speed pursuit. The pursuit was terminated due to the dangerous speeds and road conditions after the male suspect was identified as 37 year-old Caleb Covey, of Troy, Montana. Officers and Deputies returned to Libby to assess the damage and render aid to anyone in need.

The male suspect was later reported to be coming back into town. Deputies reinitiated the vehicle pursuit. During the pursuit, the male suspect crashed into another motorist's vehicle and drove west on US Highway 2 towards Troy. Libby Police Officers discontinued from the pursuit to not leave Libby without a Law Enforcement presence.

Deputies continued to pursue the vehicle which continued west on Highway 2 to the intersection of Montana Highway 56. Covey turned south on Highway 56 down to Sanders County. At approximately mile marker 4.5 on Montana Highway 56, Sanders County Sheriff's Office deputies were able to successfully deploy spike strips. Covey continued south on deflating tires and eventually on rims. He then continued West on Highway 200 into Idaho where the suspect was apprehended by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

Covey had several self-inflicted wounds and Lincoln County Deputies rendered lifesaving medical aid to Covey before transporting him to meet a responding ambulance. He was transferred to a ground ambulance which then met an air ambulance when he was transported to Kootenai Health.



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The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and the Libby Police Department would encourage all motorists that if you see a vehicle pursuit or Law Enforcement with their emergency lights activated to please move as far off the roadway as possible. This will help keep everyone safe and allow Law Enforcement to focus on stopping the pursuit or safely arriving where they are needed. If your vehicle is damaged by a pursuit, park in a safe location and call dispatch. When talking to Dispatch, provide them with your contact information so Officers can follow up with you as soon as possible. If you are injured due to a crash, call 9-1-1 so we can send medical staff to help you right away. Please do not involve yourself in a pursuit, as they are very dangerous and rapidly evolving. Our highly trained officers and deputies will do all they can to stop any danger to the public as soon as possible. We are so grateful for our wonderful and brave community that we have the honor of serving. We are also thankful for our law enforcement partners who assisted with this case.

Covey is currently listed in critical condition at Kootenai Health in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The incident is under investigation by the Libby Police Department, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, and Idaho State Police.