

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Suspends Alcohol License at Corona Circle K Store for 30 Days *Suspension is result of ABC's TRACE Program*

(Corona) – Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) have suspended the alcohol license of a Circle K Store located at 19570 Temescal Canyon in Corona for 30 days after it sold alcohol to a minor who later died in a car crash.

On April 23, 2005, 18 year old James Walsh of Eastvale purchased alcohol at the Circle K Store located at 19570 Temescal Canyon, Corona. The alcoholic beverages were sold by clerk Keshav Chopra. A few hours later, after consuming some of the alcoholic beverages Walsh was killed in a single car rollover crash on Hamner Avenue north of the Santa Ana River in Norco.

Working with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, an ABC Investigator from the Department's Southern Division conducted a TRACE (Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies) investigation after receiving the report and analysis of the fatal crash. The crash was investigated by the Norco Office of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

Investigator Jerry Ackley of the ABC TRACE Unit assisted in the investigation and interviews. Investigator Ackley acquired sales records from the premises and submitted the case for an administrative accusation.

“This action is part of ABC's overall statewide effort to increase compliance through enforcement of alcohol laws,” said ABC Director Jerry Jolly. “We need to hold businesses accountable that sell alcohol to minors.”

Mr. Chopra has already pleaded no contest to furnishing alcohol to a minor which resulted in death and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He was fined \$935.00, and was sentenced to 24 hours of community service and two years probation.

The TRACE (Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies) program is made possible by a California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The grant provides funding for in-depth ABC investigations of serious incidents including car crashes, but also alcohol overdoses, poisonings, assaults that result from alcohol consumption by minors

For more information contact Jerry Ackley in ABC's Southern Division Office at (562) 467-8400.