

Local News

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Weather Blamed For 79-Year-Old Man's Death



Reporting

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CENTREVILLE, Md. (WJZ) —



CBS

This week's frigid temperatures claimed the life of a 79-year-old New York man whose car got stuck in a ditch in Queen Anne's County.

There's no official cause of death yet but police believe the weather played a major role twice. First, it was the frigid temperatures that the victim was walking in and second, piles of snow made the search effort that much more difficult.

Early Monday morning, Carl Whitehead, 79, and his wife were on their way to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. It was an annual road trip for the Buffalo couple. Family members say the windy, rural roads in Centreville were not meant to be part of the ride.

Police say Whitehead's car got stuck in a ditch. A county snow plow pulled it out around 2:30 a.m. Monday. They radioed for more help. A sheriff's deputy came but left the couple because they seemed fine.

"Yesterday morning at 7 a.m., we got a call for a disabled motorist," said Sgt. J.D. Hofmann.

Victoria Whitehead had been left in the car alone in the freezing cold car. Police say Carl Whitehead had gone for health.

It was an intense 12-hour search with K-9 units and several teams. His body was found about a mile away at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

The medical examiner's office is going to do an autopsy.

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