

# WHL responds to fatal car crash

Speed, alcohol  
believed to be  
factors

**BRYCE FORBES**  
CALGARY HERALD

**A** fatal car crash involving a Western Hockey League player is raising questions about alcohol consumption on junior hockey teams.

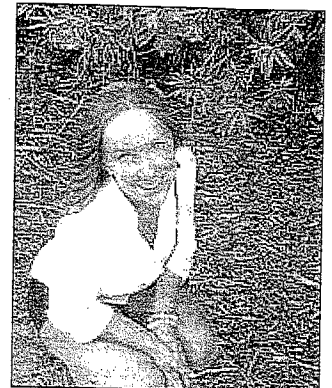
Early Saturday, a car crash on Springbank Road left an 18-year-old teaching student dead.

The car was being driven by a 17-year old WHL player originally from Calgary.

Police said speed and alcohol are believed to be factors and are looking at charges against the player, who is not being named because he is a minor facing charges.

Many junior hockey teams, such as the Calgary Hitmen, have policies in place to curb drinking.

"We wish they would refrain from drinking at all," said general manager Kelly Kisio, who noted Hitmen players aren't



From Facebook

**Emily Matthewson, 18,**  
died Saturday night in a car  
crash on Springbank Road.

allowed in bars during the hockey season.

"In the summer time, you can't keep a finger on them all the time," he added.

It wasn't one of the Hitmen players involved in the collision, although the teenager is originally from Calgary.

His team, which is also not being named due to the pending charges, declined to comment on its policy.

Kisio said he can only recall one similar incident during his 13 years with the Hitmen.

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