

Source: Test on officer shows no alcohol in blood

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A Metro police officer who plunged his car into the Cumberland River, killing a fellow officer, had no alcohol in his blood, according to a test administered two hours after the wreck, a source familiar with the investigation said yesterday.

Officer William Bishop, 32, who had been driving, remains under investigation in connection with the Sept. 6 wreck in which fellow Officer Paul Cleveland drowned. That investigation is likely to be completed by early next week and then forwarded to the Davidson County district attorney general's office.

A third officer who was in the car that went into the river that night survived. Officer Cody O'Quinn, also was tested and found to have a blood-alcohol content of .04%, half the legal limit of .08%, the source said.

Bishop's lawyer has said Bishop was the designated driver that night after the three went to a Hooters restaurant in the Rivergate area of Madison to have dinner.

Police said there were indications that all three had been drinking at the restaurant.

Bishop's lawyer, Nashville attorney David Raybin, has been adamant that his client was not drunk when he lost control of his 2004 Pontiac Grand Prix, which hit a guardrail and went into the river. Raybin was not available for comment last night.

It's not clear what effect the test results will have on the case.

Witnesses said Bishop was speeding down Howse Avenue, off Neely's Bend Road in Madison, when the car plunged into the river.

Cleveland, 28, was trapped inside the wreckage in the water at the end of the dead-end street.

Bishop and O'Quinn, the front-seat passenger, escaped from the sunken car through a broken sunroof.

Police said it was about two hours before they could get blood drawn from the two surviving officers to check for alcohol content because their priority at the time was finding Cleveland.

Raybin and Nashville attorney Mike Fox, who has many DUI clients, have said that two hours is not an unusually long delay before blood can be drawn after a fatal wreck.