



Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Richard Pierce, Sheriff
News Release

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Det. Sgt. Bob MOORE
Homicide
PH: (559) 488- 3920
Bob.Moore@fresnosheriff.org

Homicide Investigation and Arrest

Fresno County Sheriff's Detectives announced, today, the arrest of one subject related to a homicide investigation which occurred on August 22nd, 2003, in the city of Orange Cove.

According to witnesses, the 38 year-old victim, Manuel Tristan, was attending a family gathering at 848 "H" Street, in Orange Cove, during the evening hours of August 22nd, 2003. At some point in the evening, the victim and 38 year-old suspect Jesse Cole became embroiled in a verbal altercation.

While in the garage area, the suspect allegedly pushed or struck the victim causing the victim to fall backwards and strike his head on the cement floor of the garage. EMS was summoned to the scene, and the victim was transported to Reedley Hospital where he later died. The Coroner's Office later determined the cause of death as blunt force trauma to the head. The incident was initially reported as an accident where the victim fell and hit his head. An anonymous tip provided two weeks later, however, suggested that the victim had actually been in an argument with, and was subsequently struck by, the suspect.

Jesse Cole was arrested this morning and was booked into the Fresno County jail on charges of involuntary manslaughter, possession of methamphetamine and Parole violation. The drugs were removed from his person at the time of his arrest.

Anyone who may have any additional information regarding this investigation is encouraged to contact the Fresno Sheriff's Department at (559) 488-1650 or Detective John Ciaccio, at (559) 488-3730.