The junior high was put into lockdown while officers searched the area.

Ogden Police Lt. Chad Ledford said the officer, identified in a news release as Scott Gardiner, was riding south in the inside lane of Washington Boulevard around 3:50 p.m. when Margaret Isaac, 47, driving northbound in a silver Lexus, tried to turn in front of him.

Gardiner’s motorcycle collided with the car, according to the release. Isaac was cited for failure to yield.

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Motorcycle deaths on the rise in Utah, U.S.

Motorcycle deaths nationwide have doubled, climbing in 14 of the past 15 years, the Washington Post reported. There were 32 fatal crashes in 2012; 28 in 2011; 21 in 2010, said Gary Mower, a research analyst for the Utah Department of Public Safety.

“In an era when overall traffic fatalities have fallen 33 percent, the number of motorcycle fatalities nationwide has doubled, climbing in 14 of the past 15 years,” the Washington Post reported. Preliminary data suggest motorcycle fatalities may have increased by close to 9 percent in the first nine months of 2013 as warmer weather nationwide extended the riding season.

Nationwide, 36 states reported more deaths, and 35 recorded fewer. Good weather, higher gas prices and an improving economy that allowed for more motorcycle purchases were the most common explanations provided by researchers to the Governors Highway Safety Administration. “Record-setting warmth,” reported Indiana.

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‘Drivers need to be aware’

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