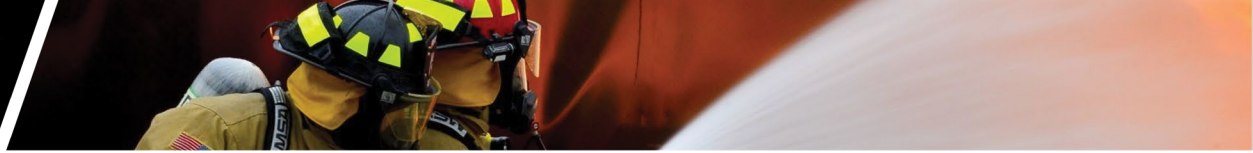


**LINE OF DUTY
DEATH REPORT
REPORT SLIDES**



F2025-07

**Volunteer Firefighter Dies and
Second Injured in Privately
Owned Vehicle Crash – Louisiana**

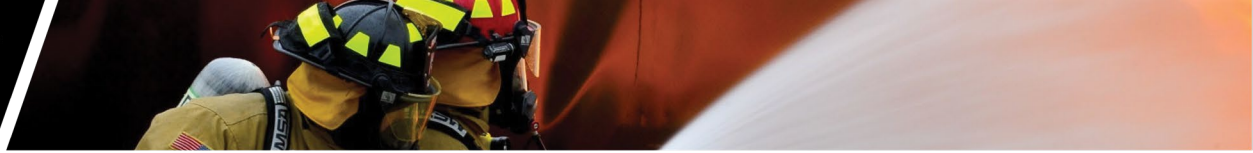


Summary

- On July 15, 2025, a volunteer firefighter (Firefighter A) died, and another (Firefighter B) was injured during a single-vehicle crash while responding to a medical emergency.
- At approximately 03:35 hours, the parish public safety answering point (PSAP) received a 911 call from a motorist stopped on the side of the highway reporting trouble breathing and chest pains.
- Fire District 4 was dispatched for advanced life support (ALS) response.

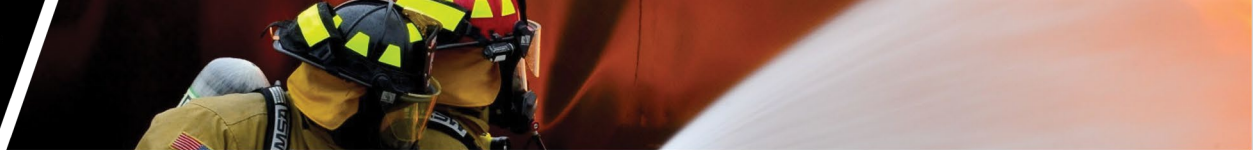


POV post-incident. (Courtesy of the fire department)



Summary

- Upon activation of the pager for the dispatch, Firefighters A and B – who were married – responded in their privately owned vehicle (POV) from their home with Firefighter A driving.
- Dense fog and darkness created low visibility, which was compounded by rural roadway conditions that included loose surface material and no painted lines or reflectors.
- After traveling 0.9 miles, they approached a 90-degree righthand curve in the roadway.
- Firefighter A realized they had entered the curve before slowing down.
- Firefighter A engaged the brakes and directed the POV straight to avoid a rollover.



Summary

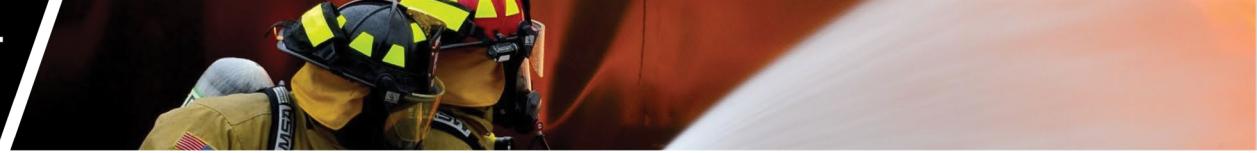
- The POV left the roadway, hit two trees, and came to a rest 97 ft from the edge of the roadway.
- The POV sustained severe damage.



POV damage with second tree.
(Courtesy of the fire department)

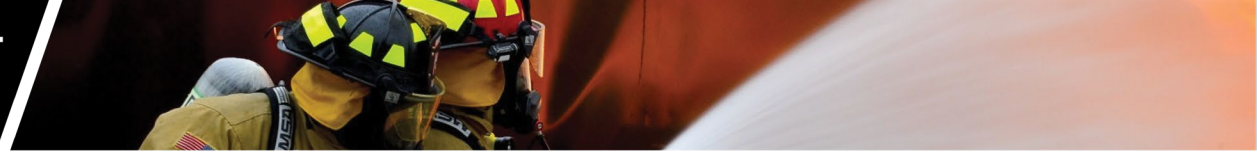


Final resting position of POV.
(Courtesy of the fire department)



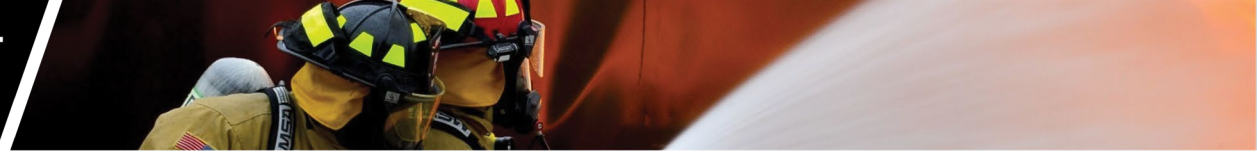
Summary

- Firefighter A was partially ejected and located by Firefighter B.
- She called 911 to report the crash, pulled him to a flat surface, and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Fire District 4 units arrived and provided medical treatment.
- With consultation from medical command at the local hospital, Firefighter A was pronounced deceased at the scene.
- Firefighter B was treated for minor injuries.



Contributing Factors

- Weather/roadway conditions with low visibility
- SOPs
- Inattentive driving
- Self-dispatch



Recommendations

- Fire departments should ensure that initial and annual emergency vehicle operations training emphasize adjusting driving for weather and roadway conditions present.
- Fire departments should enforce SOPs for driving and operating POVs that respond to an emergency.
- Fire departments should ensure all firefighters are trained in and recognize the ways that physiological and psychological factors affect driving when responding to an emergency.
- Fire departments should ensure all firefighters are trained on and aware of skill-based human performance mode errors.
- Fire departments should ensure emergency response protocols include content that explicitly prohibits firefighters and resources from self-dispatching to an emergency scene unless formally requested.

Contact Us

Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program
Surveillance and Field Investigations Branch
Division of Safety Research

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