

NJTR-1 P1 R01/22

**New Jersey Police
Crash Investigation Report**

Case Number

25-045185

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Names & Addresses of Occupants

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145. Crash Description/Narrative

On, Friday, May 23, 2025, at approximately 0439 hours, patrol officers were dispatched to the area of N. Hope Chapel Road and New Central Avenue for a report of a motor vehicle crash involving a single car versus a tree. The caller stated that everyone was out of the vehicle but the vehicle was currently on fire. P.O Egan #339 arrived on scene first and stated that the vehicle was fully engulfed in flames and there were still two people inside the vehicle. Shortly after, this officer arrived on scene along with other responding officers. Due to the intensity of the fire, officers were unable to remove the last two occupants of the vehicle.

When this officer arrived on scene, Vehicle 1 was fully engulfed in flames, crashed into a tree just off the right side of the roadway of the northbound lane of N. Hope Chapel Road. Vehicle 1 appeared to have sustained severe front end damage. At this time, screams could still be heard coming from inside the vehicle. There were three occupants located outside of the vehicle, two were suspected critically injured, and one with suspected minor injuries. There were numerous pieces of vehicle 1 spread throughout the roadway. There was also the remains and pieces of hair from a deer in the roadway.

At this time, numerous personnel from Jackson Township First Aid and Fire Departments arrived on scene to assist.

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146. Officer's Signature

336 P.O. David DeJesus

147. Badge #

336

148. Reviewer

[Signature]

Badge #

269

149. Case Status

☐ Pending ☒ Complete

New Jersey Police Crash Investigation Report

Police Dept. Jackson

Code 01

Motor Vehicle Crash Description

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N. Hope Chapel Road is a county roadway designated as county route 639 and county road number 3. N. Hope Chapel Road is a 45 MPH zone in the area of the crash. Its primary function is to move traffic north and southbound through Ocean County. In the area of the crash its direction travels northeast and southwest with a lane designated for each direction. The roadway is separated by a solid double yellow centerline indicating a no passing zone for either lane of travel. The north and south bound lanes in the area of the crash are approximately 12 feet wide. There is a small shoulder next to the northbound lane approximately 3.5 feet wide. There is a large shoulder next to the south bound lane approximately 16 feet wide. When southbound drivers get close to the New Central Avenue intersection, this wide shoulder transitions into a right turn only lane that measures approximately 12 feet wide. All street signs, lights, and traffic signals appeared to have been in proper location and working condition. The pavement appeared to be in good condition with no major deficiencies.

New Central Avenue is a county roadway identified as Ocean County Road Number 31. Its primary direction is to move traffic east and west through Ocean County. In the area of the crash, its direction travels east and west with one lane designated for each direction. There is no shoulder on either side of this roadway. All street signs and traffic signals appeared to have been in good working condition. The pavement for this roadway also appears to be in good condition with no major deficiencies.

Roadway evidence consisted of debris in the roadway caused by driver 1 striking a deer. This debris consisted of vehicle parts and biological matter from the deer. This debris started on N. Hope Chapel road in the intersection with New Central Avenue. The debris field continued from this location to the location of vehicle 1's final rest. Nothing else of evidentiary value was located within the roadway. In the terrain off of the east side of the roadway tire impressions were located where vehicle 1 left the pavement and proceeded to its final rest location. These impressions proceeded in a straight line towards where vehicle 1 was located and indicated the tires were rolling freely while being created. Just north of the tree that vehicle 1 had come to rest against, was a larger debris field consisting of larger pieces of vehicle 1 that were thrown from the vehicle upon impact with the tree.

Vehicle 1 was a Grey 2019 Toyota Sienna with a vehicle identification number [REDACTED] and New Jersey Registration [REDACTED]. It is registered to a Elka [REDACTED] and its registration is valid until August of 2025. Vehicle 1 is insured by Allstate with a policy number of [REDACTED] and an expiration date of September 21, 2025. Vehicle 1 suffered severe front end damage with engine intrusion from impact with the tree. The vehicle also suffered severe burn damage to the entire vehicle leaving the vehicle unrecognizable. All plastics and fabrics within the vehicle were melted which includes seat belts and airbags. Due to this destruction, it is unknown if the air bags were deployed or if seat belts were utilized.

At the time of the crash, vehicle 1 was being operated by [REDACTED] whom was operating the vehicle on a valid New Jersey State drivers license (NJDL# [REDACTED]). The license is a class D with two restrictions (provisional driver and eye glass restriction) and no endorsements, with an expiration of September of 2028. This identity was confirmed by the drivers mother, Elka [REDACTED] who stated that [REDACTED] routinely utilizes the vehicle for means of conveyance. [REDACTED] was one of the two occupants whom was unable to be removed from the vehicle due to the intensity of the fire and had died as a result of the crash. Once paramedics arrived on scene, they contacted Dr. Chukwueke from Community Medical Center who pronounced Driver 1 at 0526 hours. On Friday, May 23rd, at approximately 1530 hours, Dr. Mazari conducted a dental and external examination of [REDACTED]. Refer Dr. Mazari's report for further detail of the examinations.

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Front seat passenger was identified as [REDACTED] was out of the vehicle upon this officers arrival on scene and was away from the vehicle screaming in pain. He appeared to have suffered serious traumatic injuries to his lower extremities and was transported by ambulance to the Jersey Shore Trauma Center. Prior to transport, [REDACTED] did not make any comments as to what had occurred leading up to the crash. [REDACTED] had succumbed to his injuries at Jersey Shore Trauma Center and was pronounced dead at 1848 hours by Dr. Ouellette. On Sunday, May 25th, at approximately 1230 hours, Dr. Rouse conducted a dental and external examination of [REDACTED]. Refer Dr. Rouse's report for further detail of the examinations.

Driver side middle row passenger was identified as, [REDACTED] was the other occupant who was unable to be extricated from the vehicle due to the intensity of the fire and had died as a result of the crash. He was also pronounced on scene by Dr. Chukwueke from Community Medical Center who pronounced him dead at 0526 hours. On Friday, May 23rd, at approximately 1530 hours, Dr. Mazari conducted a dental and external examination of [REDACTED]. Refer Dr. Mazari's report for further detail of the examinations.

Passenger side middle row passenger was identified as, [REDACTED] was out of the vehicle upon this officers arrival and was away from the vehicle unresponsive but conscious. He appeared to have suffered serious bodily injury to his lower extremities as well as his head. [REDACTED] was transported by ambulance to the Jersey Shore Trauma Center. Prior to transport, [REDACTED] did not make any comments as to what had occurred leading up to the crash.

Passenger side rear row passenger was identified as, [REDACTED] was out of the vehicle upon this officers arrival and was away from the vehicle. He seemed to have been in shock from the crash and was unable to give his statement as to what had occurred leading up to the crash. He appeared to have suffered a laceration to his upper lip along with what appeared to have been a possible broken nose. [REDACTED] was transported by ambulance to Jersey Shore Trauma Center for treatment of his injuries. At approximately 0700 hours, PO Collins #318 responded to the Jersey Shore Trauma Center to obtain injury updates on all patients. At this time [REDACTED] informed him that he was in the back seat of the vehicle when he heard the front passenger of the vehicle yell "stop". [REDACTED] believes the airbags in the vehicle then deployed and the vehicle then struck the tree. He believes he had loss consciousness as the next thing he remembers is being helped out of the vehicle by an unidentified person.

Detective Joe Mitchell from the Ocean County Prosecutors Office Vehicular Homicide Unit was notified and briefed on the investigation. At this time he declined to respond to the scene. Sheriff's officer Lesniakowski #199 and Deane #248 from the Ocean County Sheriff's Department Criminal Investigation Unit arrived on scene to photograph and scan the scene. Dr. Klebacher of the Ocean County Medical Examiners Office arrived on scene. The deceased were transported to the Ocean County Medical Examiners Office. The vehicle was towed by Carlson's Auto Body back to a secure facility.

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This officers investigation revealed that driver 1 was traveling in the northbound lane on N. Hope Chapel Road towards Lakewood Township. While driver 1 was crossing through the intersection of New Central Avenue, roadway evidence shows the vehicle struck a deer head. After impact with the deer vehicle 1 traveled approximately 82 feet before veering off the road way right, onto grassy area. Once off the road, the vehicle traveled approximately 180 feet before striking a tree on the roads edge and coming to a final rest. The tire impressions the vehicle left in this distance were straight with no deviation indicating lack of braking or attempt to steer the vehicle. Based on witness statements and other evidence in the roadway, it appears when the vehicle struck the deer, the airbags in the vehicle were deployed and the deer was ran over and dragged underneath the vehicle until final rest. After impact with the deer, driver 1 was possibly stunned from the airbag deployment and unable to control his vehicle causing the collision with the tree. There was no evidence of braking at the scene indicating driver 1's disorientation after impacting the deer. Officer Egan #339 was the first officer on scene and reported that [REDACTED] was partially out of the vehicle. [REDACTED] were completely outside the vehicle. Officer Egan #339 moved [REDACTED] to safety and was unable to remove [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the vehicle due to the intense heat and fire.		
Neighborhood canvass revealed that the residence located at [REDACTED] Izak Court has video surveillance that recorded the crash. This video surveillance depicts vehicle 1 traveling northbound on N. Hope Chapel road. As it passes the intersection of New Central Avenue, an impact can be heard which is when vehicle 1 struck the deer. The vehicle then continues northbound where it can be seen and heard impacting the tree. The vehicle is then observed immediately catching fire. Video surveillance also revealed that there was an approximate eight minute delay between the crash occurring and the first call to 9-1-1. It should be noted that the video camera that recorded the crash is approximately 375 feet away from the scene of the crash. It is because of this distance and the combination of darkness that not all details are clearly visible. The distance from the camera also creates a sound delay between visual and actual impacts.		
Upon removal of the vehicle by the on call tow company, said deer was located wedged underneath the vehicle. Final rest of vehicle 1 has the front end of the vehicle facing northeast.		
At this time, this investigation is closed. No further action by this officer.		