State Police Investigating Fatal Hit and Run Crash

The Delaware State Police are investigating a fatal hit-and-run crash that occurred early this morning in Smyrna that left one man dead.

On October 30, 2023, at approximately 2:06 a.m., a green 2012 Ford F-150 was traveling eastbound on Wheatleys Pond Road, west of Bryn-Zion Road in Smyrna. Simultaneously, a black 2011 Lincoln Town Car was traveling westbound on Wheatleys Pond Road, approaching the Ford. It is unclear at this time as to which vehicle crossed the centerline causing the right front side of the Ford to impact with the right front side of the Lincoln on the southern part of the eastbound lane. After the impact, the Ford traveled in a southeasterly direction while rotating clockwise and rolled onto the driver's side. The Ford came to rest in the westbound lane, still on its driver's side, and became fully engulfed in flames. Post impact, the Lincoln was forced in a northeasterly direction while rotating counterclockwise, where it exited the roadway and struck a utility pole. The Lincoln came to rest in the roadside grass after the impact from the utility pole caused it to deflect westbound.

The driver of the Lincoln, a 71-year-old man from Henderson, Maryland, was taken by ambulance to an area hospital, where he was pronounced dead. His name is being withheld until his family and relatives are notified.

The driver of the Ford fled from the scene of the crash and is unknown at this time. The roadway was closed for approximately four hours while the scene was investigated and the roadway was cleared.

The Delaware State Police Troop 3 Collision Reconstruction

Unit continues to investigate this incident. Troopers are asking anyone who witnessed this collision to please contact Master Corporal W. Booth by calling 302-698-8451. Information may also be provided by sending a private Facebook message to the **Delaware State Police** or contacting **Delaware Crime Stoppers** at 1-800-847-3333.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of a crime, or you have lost a loved one to a sudden death and need assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit / **Delaware Victim Center** is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll-free hotline at 1-800-VICTIM-1 (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the Victim Services Unit at **DSP_VictimServicesMail@delaware.gov**.