

Troopers Investigate Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash



Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Jeffrey R. Hale

New Castle (19720) – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is currently investigating a single vehicle crash which has claimed the life of a New Castle woman.

The initial investigation has determined that the crash occurred at approximately 6:35 a.m. this morning, Wednesday, August 30, 2017, as a 57-year-old New Castle woman was operating a 1998 Hyundai Elantra and was traveling in a northbound direction on US Rt. 13 (N. DuPont Highway) just south of DE 273 (Frenchtown Road). For an unknown reason, the Hyundai left the roadway and drifted into the center grass median. It then continued across the southbound lanes of US Rt. 13 and left the roadway again before striking a utility pole with its passenger side doors. The female operator, who

was not properly restrained at the time of the crash, was trapped in the car for a period of time until she could be extricated by responding fire department personnel. She was then treated at the scene by New Castle County Paramedics before being transported by EMS to the Christiana Hospital where she was pronounced dead. The victim's name is being withheld pending the notification of her next of kin.

The two right hand lanes of US Rt. 13 southbound were closed for a period of time as the crash was investigated and cleared.

This crash remains under investigation by the Delaware State Police. Impairment does not appear to be a factor in the crash.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of 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

1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov <<mailto:debra.reed@delaware.gov>>.

Released: 083017 1735

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Detectives Seek Publics

Assistance in Identifying Theft Suspect(s)

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Gary Fournier

Georgetown – Troopers are investigating a theft of tires from an auto dealership in the Georgetown area.

The Delaware State Police Criminal Investigations Unit is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the person or persons involved in the theft of truck tires that were stolen off vehicles parked at First State Chevrolet located at 22694 DuPont Boulevard. Sometime through the night of Saturday August 26, 2017 and into the morning hours of Sunday August 27, 2017, a suspect(s) removed 12 tires and rims from three vehicles parked on the lot. After reporting that incident to troopers on Sunday, the next day (Monday August 29, 2017) troopers responded back to First State Chevrolet for a report of two more vehicles that were completely stripped of the tires and rims. The tires and rims stolen are reported to be valued at more than \$20,000.00 total.

If anyone has any information in reference to these incident or are able to identify the truck depicted in the attached photo, they are asked to contact Detective C. Simpson at 302-752-3855. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>.

Released: 083017 1505

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****Update** Troopers Investigate Fatal Crash South of Laurel**

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Melissa Jaffe

Laurel – The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is investigating a fatal crash that occurred south of Laurel early Tuesday evening.

The incident occurred around 8:12 p.m. Tuesday August 29, 2017 as Carman L. Williams, 60 of Philadelphia Pennsylvania was operating a 2006 Buick Lucerne westbound on Gordy Road stopped at a posted stop sign at the intersection of Sussex Highway (US 13). A 62 year old male from Nelsonia, Virginia was operating a 2011 Kenworth T660 bobtail tractor northbound on Sussex Highway approaching Gordy Road. For unknown reasons, the operator of the Lucerne failed to remain stopped and entered the intersection directly in the path of the tractor trailer. In an attempt to avoid the collision the tractor trailer operator swerved to the left, however the front of Kenworth struck the driver's side of the Lucerne. After impact, the Lucerne was redirected northbound and slid into the grass median before coming to a stop. The tractor trailer swerved into the southbound lanes, crossing the center median before coming to a stop on the southbound shoulder of U.S. 13.

Carman Williams, who was properly restrained, was transported to Nanticoke Memorial Hospital in Seaford via ambulance where she was later pronounced dead. A 25 year old male passenger and a 17 year old female passenger (grandchildren of Williams) were properly restrained and transported by EMS to Nanticoke

Memorial Hospital where they were treated and released with non life threatening injuries.

The 62 year old male operator of the tractor trailer was properly restrained and reported no injuries at the scene.

The Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing their investigation into this incident. US13 northbound and southbound at Gordy Road were closed for four hours while the crash was investigated and cleared.

[Click to view original release: ****Traffic Advisory** Serious Crash Investigated South of Laurel**](#)

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of 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 1800 VICTIM-1. (1800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@delaware.gov.

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Released: 083017 1155

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area. Commuters should expect delays in the area and find alternate routes of travel.

Further details will be released upon the conclusion of the investigation.

Please follow the Real Time Travel Advisories through DelDOT to get updates on the road opening by clicking: http://deldot.gov/information/travel_advisory/#trafficBox1

Released: 082917 2135

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A Memorial Sign Ceremony to Honor Fallen Officer Francis Ryan



Cpl./2 Robert Colmery, Sgt. Richard Bratz, Ms. Eleanor Allione, Col. Nathaniel Mc Queen, Jr., Breanna Prentice (great great grand niece); grand nieces: Dianne McMinds, Karen Dougherty, Colleen Stein; great grand niece Colleen Dougherty (daughter of Steve & Lori); Grand niece Lori Dougherty and husband Steve Dougherty; Fred McMinds husband of Dianne (grandfather to Breanna), Cpl./3 Joseph Thuet, and Cpl./3 Jeffrey Hale

Presented by the Director of Public Information Sergeant Richard D. Bratz

Wilmington – Today at 9:00 a.m., the Delaware State Police honored Officer Francis Ryan at a Public Servants Memorial Sign Ceremony. The ceremony was held on Philadelphia Pike at East Holly Oak Road, Wilmington.

Officer Francis Ryan, a member of the Delaware State Highway Police, died at the age of 31 while attempting to apprehend a speeding motorist on Philadelphia Pike on October 17, 1922. Officer Ryan's motorcycle was struck by a vehicle traveling in

the opposite direction in the area of East Holly Oak Road. He was taken to a local doctor for immediate treatment before being transported to the Delaware Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries on November 2, 1922.

"I want to thank everyone in attendance for your willingness to take the time from your busy schedules to be here this morning. I especially want to thank the state officials and the state policemen who are here this morning to commemorate Francis Ryan's service to the State of Delaware. My name is Lori Dougherty. I am one of four grandnieces of Francis Paul Ryan who are here with our families today. My three sisters Karen, Diane, Colleen and I are all very honored and very grateful to see our great uncle Francis Ryan's sacrifice recognized in this manner.

While I was growing up my mother often told me the story of our paternal grandmother's brother, Francis Ryan. How he was a policeman and was the first to ride a motorcycle on the job...As a family, we will be forever grateful to Officer Lewis and all of the other officers and state officials who have taken part in making sure Officer Francis Ryan sacrifice has not been forgotten. Again, thank you to everyone whose hard work contributed to making this day possible..."

Lori Dougherty Grandniece of Officer Francis Ryan

Dignitaries, Troopers, family, and friends gathered to remember Officer Francis Ryan who made the "Ultimate Sacrifice" in service to the State of Delaware.

The following offered remarks at the ceremony:

- Attorney General Matt Denn
- Robert Coupe, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland
- Colonel Nathaniel McQueen, Jr., Superintendent of the Delaware State Police
- Lieutenant Thomas Brackin, Delaware State Troopers

Association

- Lori Dougherty, grandniece of Officer Ryan

“Since 2012, The Delaware State Police has held eight ceremonies throughout Delaware to honor our fallen Troopers as part of our Line of Duty Death Memorial Sign Program. This program was initiated to ensure that Memorial signs were dedicated at the crash locations for all Troopers who have died in the line of duty as a result of motor vehicle crashes since 1922.

It was discovered that only (four) of the 13 Troopers involved in fatal crashes had memorial signs dedicated. Working with DelDOT as part of the Public Servants Memorial Signage Program, a plan was initiated to dedicate nine more signs over the next few years. Since this program began, We have dedicated (4) memorial signs in New Castle County, (2), in Kent County, (1) in Sussex County and (1) just over the line in PA. Today’s ceremony honoring Officer Francis Ryan now ensures that all (13) roadside memorial signs have been placed to honor our fallen Troopers.

These ceremonies have been about more than the dedication of memorial signs. These ceremonies have allowed us all to reflect upon the history of our heroes and our survivors. They have also confirmed that the history of the Delaware State Police is more than names and statistics. It is the story of human dedication, service and sacrifice. Today as we approach the 95th anniversary of his death we gather to honor the service and sacrifice of Officer Francis Ryan. Officer Ryan made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Great State and we are grateful for this opportunity to recognize him with this memorial sign and affirm our promise that his sacrifice will never be forgotten.”

Colonel Nathaniel McQueen Jr. Superintendent of the Delaware State Police

Released: 082917 1341

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Troopers Investigate Dunkin Donuts Robbery – Update

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Jeffrey R. Hale

New Castle (19720)- Delaware State Police Robbery Unit detectives have arrested an 18-year-old New Castle man and charged him in connection with the robbery of an area Dunkin Donuts.

The initial investigation began at approximately 5:35 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23, 2017, after troopers responded to the Dunkin Donuts located at 1001 North DuPont Highway for the report of a robbery which had occurred. Upon their arrival, troopers learned that a male suspect had entered the donut shop and approached the sales counter at which time he implied that he was armed with a weapon. He then demanded money from the store's cash registers. The clerk complied with the suspect's demands and turned over an undisclosed amount of money to him. The suspect then exited the business and fled in an unknown direction. There were no injuries.

Acting on a tip from the public, Robbery Unit detectives were able to determine that Alexander F. Verucci, IV, was the suspect who had committed the robbery. Detectives then obtained a warrant charging Verucci with Robbery 1st Degree, Wearing a Disguise During the Commission of a Felony, and Conspiracy 2nd Degree. He was arrested by troopers on Thursday, August 28th and arraigned at JP Court 2. Verucci was then committed to the Howard Young Correctional Institution in default of \$25,000.00 secured bail.

[Click on link to view original release.](#)

Released: 082917 1315

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State Police Investigate Robbery at Leather Central, Rehoboth



Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Melissa Jaffe

Rehoboth- The Delaware State Police are investigating a robbery at Leather Central that occurred Monday evening.

The incident occurred at approximately 7:54 p.m., Monday August 28, 2017, as a male subject entered Leather Central, located at 36983 Rehoboth Avenue extended, Unit A, Rehoboth. The suspect approached a store employee at the counter, displayed a handgun, and demanded money. The store employee complied with the demand and turned over an undisclosed amount of cash. The clerk did not sustain any injuries.

The suspect was described as a black male, over 6'00" tall, 200-225 pounds, between 25 and 35 years of age, wearing a dark hooded sweat shirt, light colored pants and light colored shoes. The suspect covered his face with a mask (No further physical or clothing description). Video Surveillance attached.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact Detective M. Doughty at

302-752-3794. Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com) at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com.

Released: 082917 1145

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Troopers Seek Public's Assistance in Locating Wanted Subject

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Melissa Jaffe

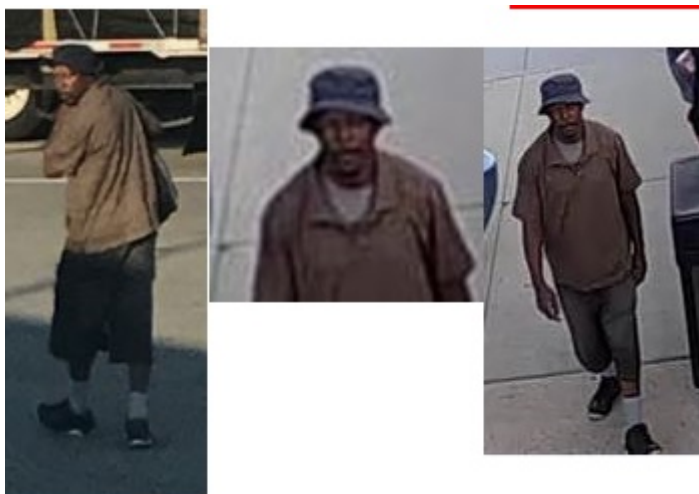
Seaford – State Police are requesting assistance in locating **John I. Ott**, 48 of Salisbury, Maryland, who is wanted for multiple counts of Theft and Criminal Trespass. He is also wanted out of Sussex County courts for numerous capiases.

Ott is wanted in connection with thefts that occurred in the Seaford and Delmar, Delaware areas in which he would illegally enter private property and remove lawn equipment and construction tools and then sell them at an area pawn shop.

If anyone has any information in reference to John Ott's whereabouts, they are asked to contact Troop 5 at 302-337-1090. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com.

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Troopers Investigate Robbery of Tractor Trailer Driver – Update



Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Jeffrey R. Hale

Newark- Delaware State Police Robbery Unit detectives continue to investigate the robbery of a tractor-trailer driver which occurred early this month and are seeking the public's assistance in identifying the suspect.

The initial investigation has determined that the incident happened on Saturday, August 5, 2017, at approximately 6:52 p.m., as a 31-year-old male was seated inside of his tractor-trailer, which was parked in the southern parking lot of the Delaware House Service Area, located at 530 JFK Memorial Highway. It was then that the driver was approached by a male

suspect who brandished an unknown make and model handgun and pointed it at him. The suspect then demanded the victim's wallet and cell phone. The victim turned his wallet over to the suspect, however, refused to surrender his phone. The suspect then fled on foot and was last seen walking through the parking lot in an eastbound direction. The victim was not injured.

The suspect (pictured) was described as a black male 40-45 years of age. He was 5'08"-5'09" tall and weighed 170-180 lbs.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact Detective A. Lloyd at 302-365-8403. Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.tipsubmit.com.

Released: 082817 1805

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Troopers Investigate Robbery of Bicyclist



Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Jeffrey R. Hale

Wilmington (19809)- The Delaware State Police are currently investigating the robbery of a male bicyclist which occurred last night.

The investigation thus far has determined that the incident occurred on Sunday, August 27, 2017, at approximately 10:44 p.m., as a 17-year-old male was riding his bike in the 500 block of Philadelphia Pike. It was at this time that he was waved over by a male subject who was standing on the sidewalk on the southbound side of the roadway. As the teen approached, the male suspect pushed him off of his red Baja bike. The suspect then fled on the bike and was last seen riding toward the city of Wilmington. The victim was not injured.

The suspect was described as a black male. He was 35-40 years of age, 6'01"-6'02" tall, weighed 150-170 lbs., and was last seen dressed in all dark clothing. There is no further physical or clothing description available.

Anyone with any information in reference to this investigation is asked to contact the Robbery Unit at Troop 2 at 302-365-8566. Information may also be provided by calling [Delaware Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com.

Released: 082817 1733

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