Troopers Investigate Crash Involving Police Vehicle



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

Wilmington (19810)- The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is currently investigating a three vehicle crash involving a Delaware State Trooper that occurred last night north of Wilmington.

The initial investigation has determined that the crash occurred at approximately 8:46 p.m. last night, Thursday, May 25, 2017, as a 46 year old Delaware State Trooper was operating a fully marked 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe and was traveling in a westbound direction on Silverside Road

approaching the intersection of Benton Court. The trooper, who was not responding to a complaint and did not have the emergency equipment of his vehicle activated, failed to observe a 1996 Buick Lesabre stopped in the westbound lane of Silverside Road, just west of Benton Court, with its left turn signal activated. The front of the Tahoe then struck the rear of the Lesabre, which was being operated by a 16 year old Wilmington male. The force of the collision caused the Lesabre to travel into the eastbound lane of Silverside Road where its front then struck the front of a 2012 Infiniti G37, which was being operated by a 73 year old Wilmington female. All three vehicles came to rest in the roadway.

The operator of the Buick Lesabre, as well as a 53 year old female passenger, were trapped in the car until they could be extricated by responding emergency personnel. They were treated at the scene by New Castle County Paramedics before being transported by ambulance to the Christiana Medical Center, where they were treated for their non-life threatening injuries. There were no other injuries.

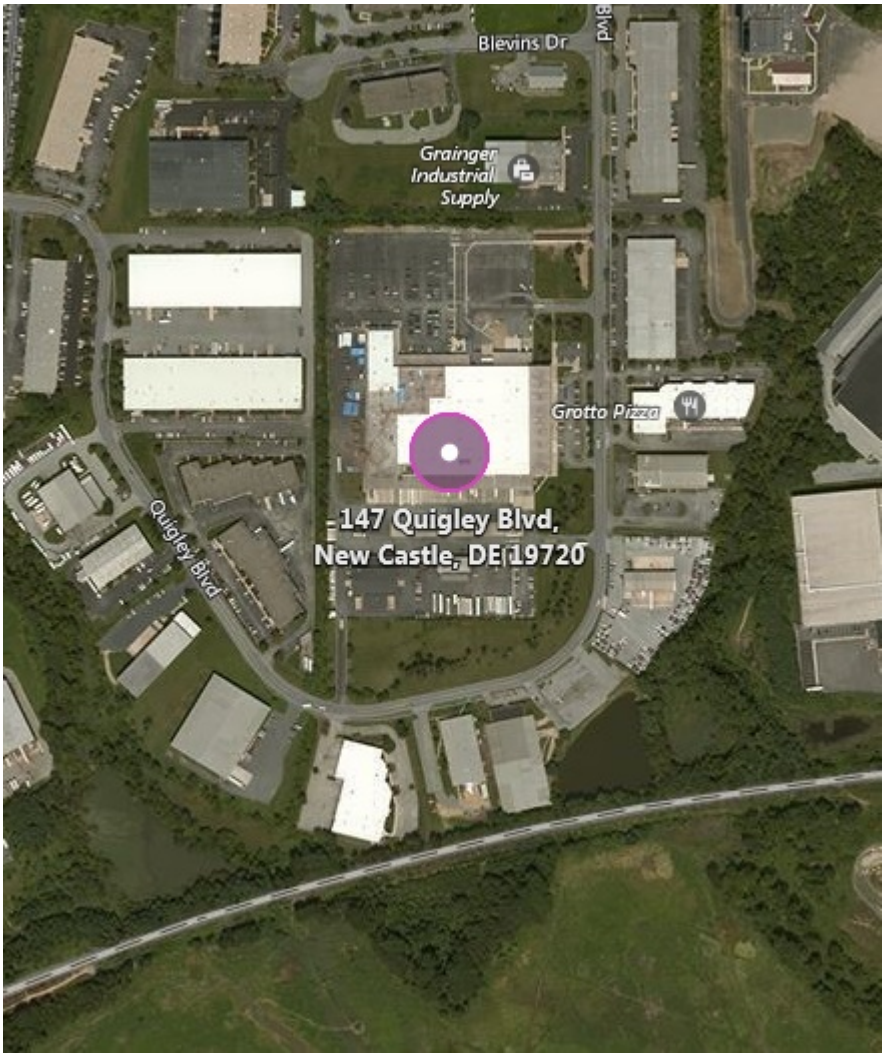
All operators and passengers were properly restrained at the time of the crash. Alcohol use is not being considered as a factor in the crash.

This crash remains under investigation by the Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit. Both the eastbound and westbound lanes of Silverside Road were closed for a period of time as the crash was investigated and cleared.

Released: 052617 1255

-end-

Troopers On-Scene Of Helicopter Crash – Update



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

***New Castle (19720)* –** The Delaware State Police, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the Federal Aviation Administration, continue to investigate a helicopter crash which has claimed the life of a New Jersey man that occured late this morning in New Castle.

The investigation thus far has determined that the crash occurred at approximately 11:55 a.m. this morning, Thursday, May 25, 2017, as a 2006 Airbus EC-135P2 helicopter, which was

being operated by Michael R. Murphy, 37, of Franklinville, NJ, crashed into a drainage ditch located in the rear of the United States Post Office facility located at 147 Quigley Boulevard. Upon impact the helicopter, which is owned by Penn Star, the air transportation service for the University of Pennsylvania Health System, then became engulfed in flames. Responding fire services personnel from the Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company and neighboring volunteer fire companies arrived at the scene and were able to extinguish the flames. Michael Murphy, who was employed by Metro Aviation, was the sole occupant of the helicopter. He was declared dead at the scene. His body was turned over to the Delaware Division of Forensic Sciences where an autopsy will be performed. There were no other injuries. Damage to a shed and several parked vehicles on the property was sustained due to flying debris and flames.

Upon speaking to aviation officials, it was learned that Michael Murphy had flown from the Atlantic City Airport and was conducting “approach training” in the area of the New Castle County Airport.

The investigation into the cause of this crash is continuing at this time. Further Information will be released as the investigation dictates.

For any questions regarding the employment of Michael Murphy, please contact Kristen King Holmes at kking@metroaviation.com.

Click on link to review initial release.

Released: 052517 0810

-end-

Update-Media Briefing Troopers On-Scene of Helicopter Crash

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

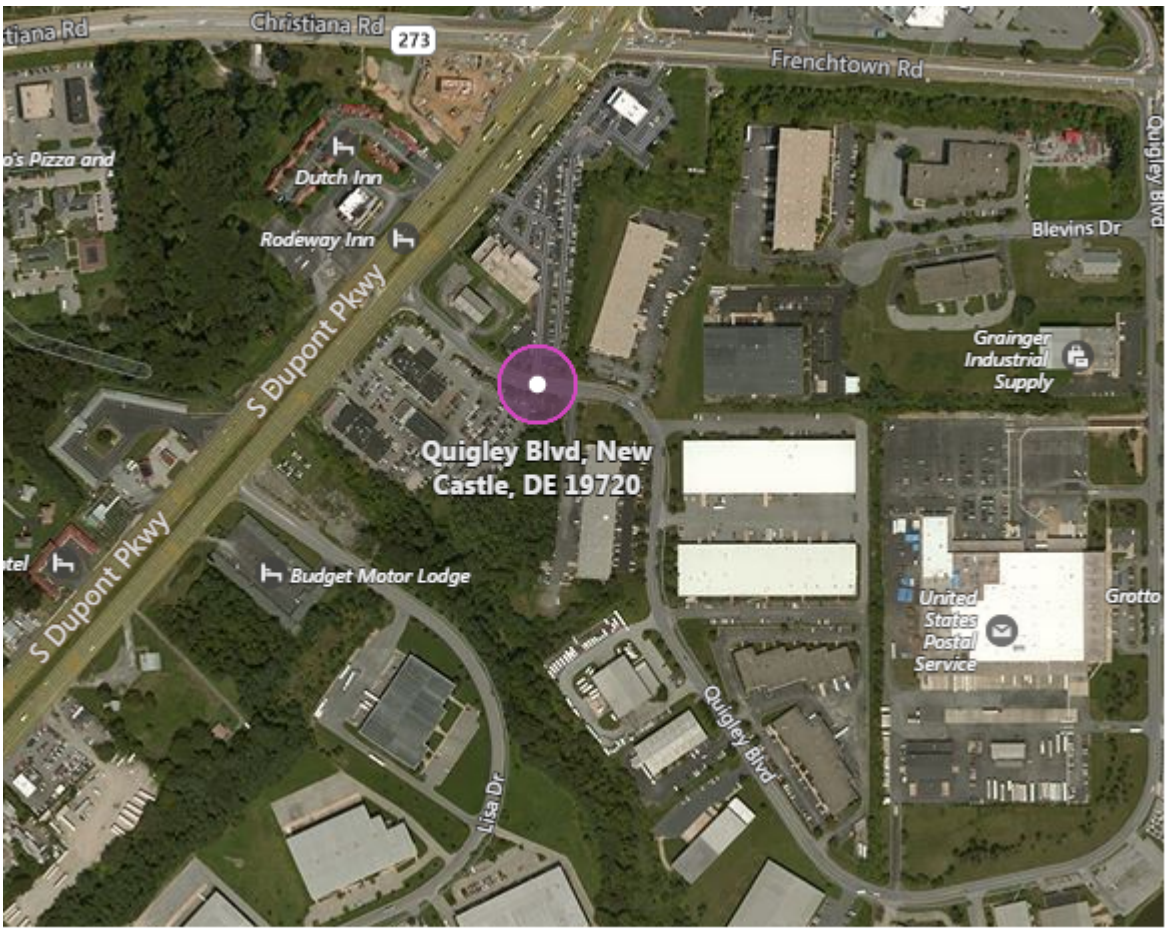
New Castle (19720)- The media briefing will be held behind the U.S. Post Office located in the area of 196 Quigley Boulevard at 4:00 p.m.

Please click to view original release: Troopers On-Scene of Helicopter Crash

Released: 052517 1535

-end-

Troopers On-Scene of Helicopter Crash



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

New Castle (19720)- Delaware State Police are currently at the scene of a helicopter crash that occurred late this morning in New Castle.

The preliminary investigation has determined that the incident occurred at approximately 11:55 a.m. this morning as a privately owned helicopter occupied by one individual, crashed in a grassy area located in the rear of the United Stated Post Office located in the 200 block of Quigley Boulevard. As a result of the crash, the occupant of the helicopter has been declared dead at the scene. There were no other injuries. A shed on the property as well as several vehicles sustained minor damage.

The Delaware State Police, The National Transportation Safety Board, and the Federal Aviation Administration are currently

on scene conducting the investigation which is in its early stages.

More information will be released to the media at a press conference to be held later today. The location and time of the press conference have yet to be determined.

Released: 052517 1430

-end-

Troopers Seek Public's Assistance in Locating Wanted Subject

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Gary Fournier

Millsboro – State Police are requesting assistance in locating **Brian A. McCabe,** 26 of Millsboro, who is wanted for three counts of Burglary, two counts of Possession of Burglar Tools, three counts of Theft, and two counts of Criminal Mischief. He is also wanted by Millsboro Police Department, Georgetown Police Department, and Sussex County courts on warrants and capiases.

McCabe is wanted by troopers in connection with two separate incidents that occurred around the end of April and beginning of May for entering seasonal residences in the 26000 block of Autumn Road and removing various items including electronics.

If anyone has any information in reference to Brian McCabe's whereabouts, they are asked to contact Detective A. Bluto at 302-752-3864. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Released: 052517 1330

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Troopers Seek Public's Assistance in Locating Wanted Subject

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Gary Fournier

Dover – State Police are requesting assistance in locating **Maurice J. Wells,** 35 of Dover, who is wanted for two counts of Assault, Strangulation, Terroristic Threatening and six counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

Wells is wanted in connection with two separate incidents that occurred on Friday May 19, 2017 and Sunday May 21, 2017 when he struck a 30-year-old female victim with a closed fist and choked her, all while in the presence of the victim's three young children.

If anyone has any information in reference to Maurice Wells'

whereabouts, they are asked to contact Troop 3 Major Crimes Unit at 302-698-8434. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Released: 052417 1410

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Troopers Investigating Attempted Robbery and Assault in Rodney Village Shopping Center

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Gary Fournier

Dover – The Delaware State Police are investigating an attempted robbery and assault that occurred in the parking lot of the Rodney Village Shopping Center.

The incident occurred around 9:00 p.m. Monday May 22, 2017 as a 33-year-old male was walking northwest through the shopping plaza (1600 block of South Governors Avenue) when he was confronted by a male subject. The suspect demanded the victim's money and when the victim informed him that he did not have any, the suspect pulled a box cutter from his pocket and cut the victim on the forearm before fleeing in an unknown direction. The victim was later transported to Bayhealth Kent General Hospital where he was treated and released with non-

life-threatening injuries.

The suspect was described as a black male, 5’07”-5’09” tall, 170-180 lbs., wearing a dark colored hooded sweatshirt, black pants, and a black head cover (no further physical or clothing description available). Armed with a box cutter.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact the Troop 3 Major Crimes Unit at 302-698-8434. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword “DSP.”

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: 052417 1200

###

Update Troopers Investigating Fatal Hit and

Run Crash with Bicyclist-Dover

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Gary Fournier

Dover– The Delaware State Police Collision Reconstruction Unit is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the vehicle involved in the May 4th hit and run fatal crash with a bicyclist.

Investigators are searching for a 2002-2003 GMC Envoy, possibly maroon in color, with damage to the front grill or hood area, and lower bumper (no further description available).

The Collision Reconstruction Unit is continuing their investigation into this incident. If anyone has information regarding this vehicle they are asked to contact Sergeant J. Wheatley at 302-698-8518. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

Please click here to view the original release

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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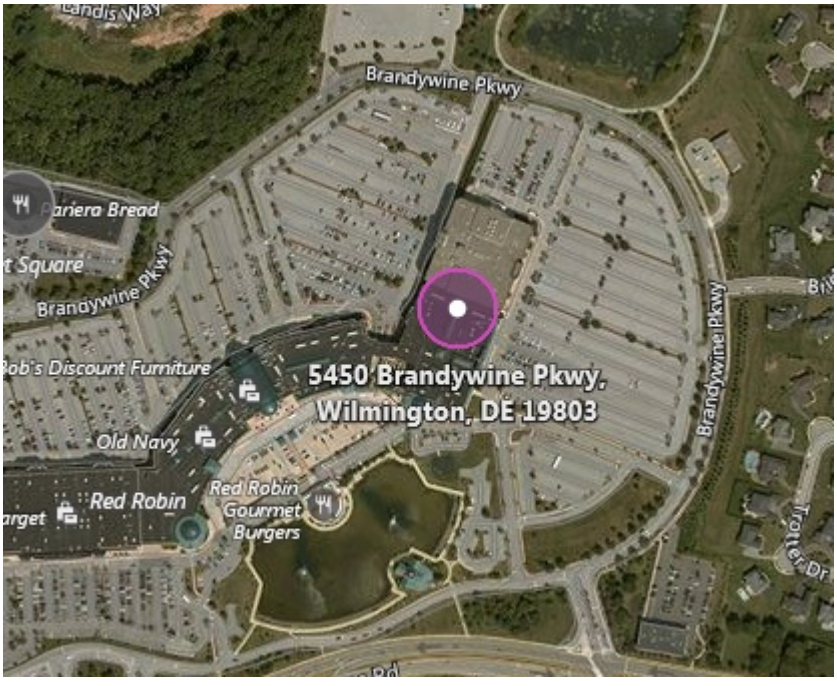
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Released: 052417 1140

###

Troopers Investigate Parking Lot Robbery



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

Wilmington (19803) **–** Delaware State Police are currently investigating the armed robbery of a male subject that took

place in an area parking lot early yesterday morning.

The initial investigation has determined that the incident happened on Monday, May 22, 2017 at approximately 3:30 a.m., as a male victim was traveling on a skateboard through the parking lot of the Brandywine Town Center, located at 5450 Brandywine Parkway. It was then that the victim was approached by three subjects in a green unknown make and model passenger vehicle. Two of the suspects then displayed unknown make and model handguns and demanded the victim's property. The victim complied with the suspect's demands and turned over a back pack containing an I-Phone, charger, and car keys. The three suspects then fled in the vehicle in a northbound direction on Brandywine Parkway. The victim was not injured.

One suspect was described as an Hispanic male 25 years of age. He had a large build and black hair, and was last seen wearing a green or white t-shirt. There is no further physical or clothing description available.

The second suspect was described as an Hispanic male 25-30 years of age. He had a thin build, black hair, and was last seen wearing a dark colored t-shirt. There is no further physical or clothing description available.

A description of the third suspect is not available.

If anyone has any information in reference to this incident they are asked to contact the Troop 2 Robbery Unit at 302-365-8566. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

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Released: 052317 1200

-end-

Five Arrested in Human Trafficking Case

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Gary Fournier

Dover – The Delaware State Police, with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (Wilmington office), and the Delaware Department of Justice have arrested five people in connection with a human trafficking case.

This investigation began on May 8, 2017 when the Troop 3 Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU) was contacted by the foster parent of a juvenile who had been reported missing on March 27, 2017. The foster parent advised that the 16-year-old female may be prostituting via the website www.backpage.com. Detectives located a listing on the webpage that displayed photographs appearing to be the missing teen and were able to confirm her identity through the foster parent. Investigators conducted a search of law enforcement records for the phone number listed and were able to link it to **Jason Haith**, 18 of

Dover and his girlfriend, **Jessica A. Hutkin**, 34 of Smyrna.

On Friday May 19, 2017, a joint operation coordinated by Troop 3 CIU, FBI Wilmington, and the Delaware Department of Justice was initiated. Investigators called the phone number listed and arranged a meeting for sexual favors in exchange for compensation at a south Dover motel. At approximately 1:40 p.m. that afternoon, a white 2017 Hyundai Sonata, bearing New York registration, pulled into the motel and the 16-year-old victim was seen exiting the vehicle. After the teen exited the vehicle, it departed and troopers conducting a traffic stop on the car. The driver, Jason Haith, and two passengers, Jessica Hutkin and **Austin White**, 19 of Smyrna, were taken into custody without incident. A computer inquiry revealed the Hyundai Sonata was reported stolen out of Philadelphia on April 6, 2017.

Further investigation revealed that Haith, Hutkin, and White, along with two other subjects, **Donnell Singletary**, 32 of Dover, and **Taliesha Haith**, 34 of Dover, that were taken into custody at Jason Haith's residence in the 1000 block of East Lebanon Road, allowed each other to utilize their cellular telephones to make cellular calls, send text messages, and/or connect to the internet to arrange prostitution activities for the 16-year-old victim and another 17-year-old victim who was also advertised on www.backpage.com. Information also suggested that the prostitution activities were coordinated out of the Haith residence located at the East Lebanon Road address.

Jason Haith and Jessica Hutkin were both charged with Human Trafficking – Sexual Servitude, Promoting Prostitution 2nd, Receiving Stolen Property, and Conspiracy 2nd. They were arraigned at JP7 and remanded to the custody of the Delaware Department of Correction on $34,000.00 secured bond.

Taliesha Haith, Donnell Singletary, and Austin White were all charged with Human Trafficking – Sexual Servitude,

Promoting Prostitution 2nd, and Conspiracy 2nd. They were all arraigned at JP7 and remanded to the custody of the Delaware Department of Correction on $32,000.00 secured bond.

Because of the sensitivity of this case, and in consideration of the victims, only limited information will be released. Both victims have been placed in the safety of the Division of Family Services.

Victims or persons with information regarding the activities of any of the five subjects arrested are asked to please contact Detective M. Weinstein at 302-698-8443 or Troop 3 Major Crimes Unit at 302-698-8434. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, via the internet at www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com, or by sending an anonymous tip by text to 274637 (CRIMES) using the keyword "DSP."

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. (1-800 842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at *debra.reed@delaware.gov*.

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Released: 052217 1610

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