

News Release



Frederick County, Maryland
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tanker Explosion on Route 15 in Frederick Leads to Fatality and Damaged Homes

(Frederick, March 4, 2023) – At approximately noon today the Frederick County Emergency Communications Center received multiple calls with reports of a house fire in the 500 block of Schley Avenue. Within minutes they began receiving emergency calls for a vehicle explosion along Route 15 South in the area of Rosemont and Schley Ave.

Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services units arrived on scene within minutes and confirmed one Tanker truck hauling flammable liquid was completely engulfed with extension to three homes and three automobiles in the 500 block of Apple Avenue. The incident also led to a large brush fire along the Route 15 corridor. A second alarm was requested to bring additional resources to assist the multiple crews that were deployed to bring each fire under control. All fires were deemed under control within 40 minutes.

We can confirm that the tanker driver died as a result of the incident. One house located on Apple Avenue suffered extensive damage which displaced the occupants of the home, two other residences received minor fire damage. There are no reported injuries to the occupants of any of the structures.

Maryland State Police is on the scene handling the investigation of the accident. The Maryland Department of the Environment, the Frederick County Fire/Rescue Hazardous Materials Team and the Frederick City Department of Public Works has been on the scene and confirmed that hazardous material was contained prior to reaching Carroll Creek, however we are aware that environmentally safe fire suppression foam is visible in the creek and we are working with Frederick City Department of Public Works to remove that material. There is no risk to the public.

Route 15 Northbound will be closed for an extended period of time while the investigation and cleanup continues.

For further information contact Sarah Campbell at 443-277-5409 or via e-mail at scampbell@frederickcountymd.gov.