

Accident on 121 claims life of teen, woman

Written by Betsy Blevins, Editor and Publisher

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Traffic was at a standstill on State Highway 121 Tuesday afternoon after a collision just south of Randolph injured four and claimed the life of two. Emergency personnel from several agencies were dispatched to the scene after a major accident was reported on Highway 121 at the south intersection with Business Highway 121.

Several members of the Randolph Volunteer Fire Department responded to the scene, and could be heard over the scanner within minutes calling for at least one air ambulance, and to have another on stand-by. One firefighter gasping for breath reported that three children were involved and that the jaws of life would be needed for one patient. The number of air ambulances needed quickly changed to three, Trenton Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to assist with creating landing zones, and Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Alan Hale was also summoned at that time. Air Evac units 65 and 67 and PHI Air Medical unit two picked up three patients from the scene for transport. After those choppers had left the scene, a fourth one from Careflight was also called in for transport.

Sitting along a side road was a white SUV that contained at least one occupant that witnessed the accident and was very shaken up. At least two motorists - one in a nurses uniform - stopped to render aid at the scene as well.

The Texas Highway Patrol has reported that the accident claimed the life of 14-year-old Daniel Philips and 45-year-old Reena Daniel who were passengers in a Honda Civic that was hit head-on by a Honda Accord driven by a Whitewright woman. The Accord had reportedly crossed the center line. The driver of the Civic and two other children - age 11 and 6 - were flown by air ambulance to Children's Hospital and Parkland Hospital for treatment. The driver of the Accord was transported to Plano Medical Center with what was considered to be serious injuries as well.

Sometime during the hectic landing and departure of the three choppers, the pilot of Air Evac 65 radioed to officers on the ground and requested the arrest of a driver who passed under his unit's rotor blade while trying to get by the wreckage, which was too close for safety and comfort.

"I'd like to see handcuffs on that man," said the pilot as he radioed to the officers about the incident. There was no word, however, on whether or not the man was detained.

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In addition to Texas Department of Public Safety, Trenton Volunteer Fire Department and Randolph Volunteer Fire Department, the Fannin County Sheriff's Office also assisted with the investigation.