



**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

NEWS RELEASE

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Chief of Police

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8495 Veterans Highway
Millersville, Md. 21108-1485

Date: May 19, 2009
Release Time: 1555 hours

Type of Collision: **Four vehicle head on / rear end collision**

Location of Incident: Fort Smallwood Road / Carroll Street

Date & Time: May 19, 2009 @ 10:34 a.m.

Primary Investigator: Pfc. J. Mahaffee #1624
Traffic Safety Section

Police Case Number: 09-719054

Motor Vehicle #1: 2005 Toyota Camry, brown in color
Maryland Registration BPD0150, expires 02/10
VIN: 4T1BE32K25U945540

Driver: Herbert Ray Ratcliff, white male 64 yoa
1 Dunlap Court
Pasadena, MD 21122

Injuries: **Upper Body Injuries (Stable Condition)**

Passengers: Irene G. Ratcliff, white female 85 yoa
1 Dunlap Court
Pasadena, MD 21122

Injuries: **Upper Body Fatal Injuries**

Notifications: Mr. Herbert Ray Ratcliff (son) at scene

Owner: Same as Driver

Motor Vehicle #2: 2002 Ford Excursion, white in color
Maryland Registration 657M357, expires 11/10
VIN: 1FMNU40L92EA51414

Driver: Herbert Horst Rowe, white male 62 yoa
216 Atlanta Road
Pasadena, MD 21122

Injuries: Not Injured

Owner: Same as Driver

Motor Vehicle #3: 2001 Ford Explorer, white in color
Maryland Registration M676481, expires 08/09
VIN: 1FMZU73E51ZA48145

Driver: Bonnie Jean Winkler, white female 28 yoa
103 Cottage Grove Drive
Pasadena, MD 21122

Injuries: Not Injured

Owner: Same as Driver

Motor Vehicle #4: 2008 Dodge Charger, gray in color
Maryland Registration 6CGA34, expires 04/09
VIN: 2B3KA43G08H226182

Driver: Amy Nicole Bush, white female 30 yoa
112 Cottage Grove Drive
Pasadena, MD 21122

Injuries: Not Injured

Owner: Timothy Michael Bush
112 Cottage Grove Drive
Pasadena, MD 21122

Synopsis:

On May 19, 2009 at approximately 10:34 a.m., members of the Traffic Safety Section responded to the area of Fort Smallwood Road and Carroll Street, Pasadena to assist with a serious personal injury motor vehicle crash.

Preliminary investigation suggests that Mr. Ratcliff was operating a 2005 Toyota Camry (Vehicle #1) that was traveling Southbound on Fort Smallwood Road when Mr. Ratcliff fell asleep behind the wheel causing Vehicle #1 to drift into the Northbound lane of Fort Smallwood Road. Vehicle #1 then struck the Ford Excursion (Vehicle #2), which was operated by Mr. Rowe head on. Consequently, the Dodge Charger (Vehicle #4), which was also traveling Northbound on Fort Smallwood Road, was unable to stop and struck the Ford Expedition (Vehicle #3) from behind causing it to rear end Vehicle #2.

As a result of the crash, the passenger of the Toyota Camry, Ms. Irene G. Ratcliff suffered upper body injuries and died at the scene. Mr. Ratcliff was suffering from chest pains and was transported to Shock Trauma, where he is listed in serious condition.

Speed and alcohol are not believed to be factors in the crash and charges are pending upon review by the States Attorney's Office.

The investigation is still ongoing.