



Louisiana State Police

Colonel Kevin W. Reeves, Superintendent



COURTESY LOYALTY SERVICE

TROOP A NEWS RELEASE

January 17, 2018

Fireman Dies after being Struck by Vehicle in West Feliciana Parish

Wakefield – Shortly after 9:00 am on January 17, 2018, Troopers from Louisiana State Police Troop A began investigating a fatal crash on US 61 north of LA 421 in West Feliciana Parish. The crash took the life of the Wakefield Fire Chief, 48 year old Russell Achord of St. Francisville.

The initial investigation by State Police revealed that the West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office and the Wakefield Fire Department were investigating a crash in the southbound lanes of US 61. At the same time, 51 year old Robert McCoy of Tallulah was traveling southbound on US 61 in a 2018 Dodge Ram 5500 pulling a trailer. McCoy lost control of his vehicle on the icy roadway as he approached the crash scene. McCoy's truck struck multiple first responder vehicles and Chief Achord as he was assisting a motorist at the scene.

Chief Achord sustained serious injuries as a result of the crash. He was transported to the West Feliciana Hospital and was later pronounced deceased by hospital staff. McCoy was properly restrained and was not injured in the crash. Weather is suspected to be a factor in this crash.

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