



South Strabane Township
Department of Fire & Emergency Management

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 29th, 2023 I-79 Incident

Just after 3:00 PM on Sunday, January 29th, 2023, on-duty South Strabane Firefighters responded to I79, in the area of exit 41, for a male experiencing a medical emergency. South Strabane firefighters provided medical aid on scene in conjunction with a crew from Ambulance & Chair EMS until he was transported to the hospital.

After the patient was transported, the crew provided safety blocking of the scene with a fire apparatus as they awaited the tow truck. During this time, a vehicle that was in the backlog of traffic approached the scene and stopped next to the fire engine that was providing a block.

Shortly after, firefighters heard gunfire and sought cover behind the fire engine. Once Pennsylvania State Police confirmed that the scene was safe, South Strabane Firefighters requested additional fire & EMS units and began emergency medical care of the patient of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Unfortunately, the individual was pronounced dead on scene after efforts from South Strabane Firefighters, Ambulance & Chair EMS, and UMPC Prehospital Services.

Thank you to our mutual aid partners, North Strabane Fire Department & Chartiers Fire Department for assistance during this prolonged incident, and subsequent closure of I-79 in both directions. Any further information can be obtained through the Washington County Coroner and the Pennsylvania State Police.

South Strabane Fire & Emergency Services is a combination department, staffed 24/7/365 by career and volunteer firefighters. The department protects an area of approximately 23 square miles and responds to over a thousand incidents annually. Fire, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous materials, and public services are provided to a diverse response district including agricultural, industrial, manufacturing and retail sectors, as well as urban and suburban environments. The department continues to focus on its combination delivery model of fire and emergency services, bringing volunteer and career firefighters together to deliver the highest quality fire and emergency services.

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