

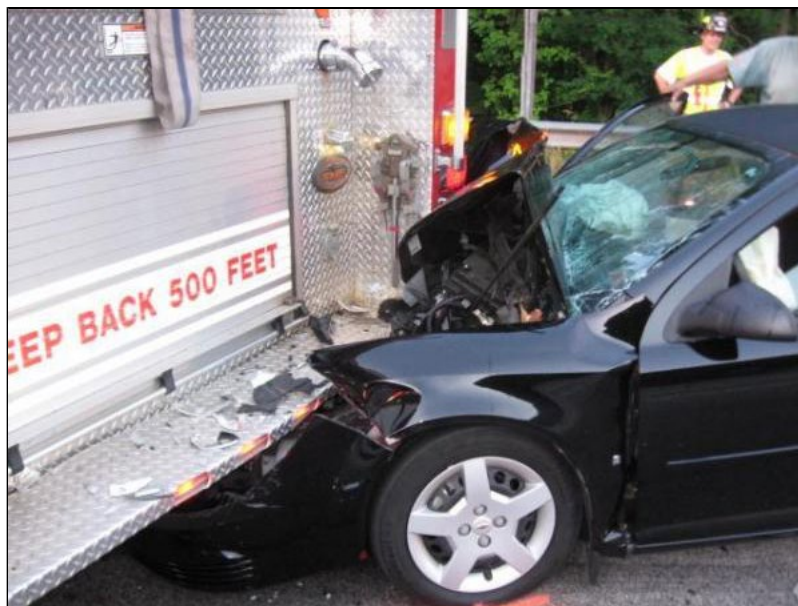
## Morrisville Fire Engine Struck on Interstate 40

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The *News & Observer* reports that a Morrisville fire engine was struck this morning on Interstate 40. They were east of Airport Boulevard and on scene at a vehicle fire, when a car carrying two college students collided with the apparatus about 4:30 a.m. Both occupants were transported to Duke. No firefighters were injured. And, as it happens, another accident occurred, while the fire truck/car collision was being investigated. [Read the \*News & Observer\* article.](#)

The story is also being reported by WRAL, and includes the below image. They report that the car was travelling at full speed and failed to brake. Their car was totalled, and the apparatus received only minor damage. Crews closed all but one lane of the roadway during the incident. [Read the WRAL story.](#)

The vehicle fire was dispatched at 3:31 a.m. The vehicle accident at 4:17 a.m. Units at the accident included Morrisville E1, R2, C3, C1, EMS 54, EMS 4, District 5.



WRAL photo

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That's a bad accident, is there an estimate of damage costs for the apparatus?

Was the vehicle fire neutralized at time of accident??

I just don't understand (Unless they fell asleep) How you couldn't see that...

**[ExplorerRickels]** ([Email](#)) ([Web Site](#)) - 06/13/09 - 13:10

Was this engine company blocking for another company working? Or, was this the only unit on scene? Either way, this should solidify the need for apparatus to "block" on busy highways and interstates!!!

**Silver** - 06/13/09 - 13:17

Silver- from the WRAL report it seems that this one was the 'traffic calming' unit. You are right, though, ANY incident on the big roads REQUIRES a blocker. The fire truck sustained 'cosmetic damage' per WRAL. I wonder what this would have done to one of our ambulances? Or maybe the people standing at the rear trying to load it?

**DJ** - 06/13/09 - 16:43

DJ, I don't even want to think about it involving an ambo. I'm glad we didn't wait for a bad incident to happen involving our own to take this pro-active step. When I originally read about the blocking idea, Plano (TX) F.D. had started it and was very impressed.

Here's proof in our own backyard that this works and saves lives. Just be sure you get off the rig, even if you're blocking!!! Remember, the purpose of the rig is to take a hit, such as this, if need be. If you stay on it, how safe is that?

**Silver** - 06/13/09 - 21:32

Listen to archived radio traffic of the incident, starting at the end of the 4:01 am to 4:17 am clip, when Morrisville Ladder 2 reports the collision: <http://wake.nc.scanamerica.us/modules.ph..>

Firegeezzer has blogged about the incident: <http://www.firegeezzer.com/2009/06/13/lan..>

**Legeros** - 06/13/09 - 21:44

good job. that's what supposed to happen, hit the truck, not the folks.

**AB** - 06/13/09 - 23:56

Very glad that no emergency personnel were injured. I wish we had a policy of having a blocking unit on the interstates. Currently, we send a unit in each direction, but only the unit on the side of the accident usually remains on the scene and the other unit clears. This leaves blocking up to the single unit on scene. We have had 3-5 rearend/sideswipe interstate collisions with fire apparatus in the last 3 years in my department alone, with several more involving other local departments.

**Rides An Engine** - 06/14/09 - 16:43

"Rides"...contact me via e-mail and I can get you a copy of our SOG from the city if you're interested. Also, we just had a class (video) on how to properly park your apparatus when on a highway to direct traffic around you. This federal grant got us five traffic cones per apparatus!! Let me know...

**Silver** ([Email](#)) - 06/14/09 - 21:23

WOW, I am glad to hear that the guys are alright. I saw the picture and my jaw dropped. The Photo is priceless "keep back 500 feet". Did they say if the students were intoxicated? I am seeing this kinda late being on the other side of the world.

**Kermit** - 06/18/09 - 15:05

Name: (real name  
preferred)  
E-mail: (optional)  
Web Site: (optional)

Remember personal info?  
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To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

**What are the FIRST TWO LETTERS of the word 'fire'?**

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Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.

Hide email: Yes, hide my email address.