

Updated - Craven County Firefighter Killed Monday

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[FireNews reported yesterday](#) that a member of Little Swift Creek Volunteer Fire Department in Craven County was killed in a motor-vehicle accident on Monday night. Firefighter Jeffrey Grega, 23, was headed to a training session at the fire station when his Ford Ranger pick-up truck hit a bridge on Wayerhauser Road and plunged into a creek. The accident occurred about 6:55 p.m. His body was recovered about 11:30 p.m. The Sidney Dive Team from Beaufort County assisted Craven County rescuers with the recovery. The FireNews story draws from the [New Bern Sun Journal article](#), which also posted this photo of Grega's father and brother visiting the scene the morning after. [See also the WITN story](#).



Chuck Beckley/Sun Journal photo

Thursday update. Memorial arrangements, from the [North Carolina Fallen Firefighters Foundation web site](#). Services will be held 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 22, at West Craven High School Performing Arts Center (2600 Streets Ferry Vanceboro, NC, 28586). Burial with fire department honors will follow at Pine Tree Cemetery in Ernul. The family will receive friends from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Friday, January 21, at Cotten Funeral Home (2201 Neuse Boulevard, New Bern, NC, 28560). In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Jeffrey Grega Memorial Fund, P. O. Box 13036, New Bern, NC, 28561, or to any RBC Bank. Condolences may be made to the Grega family at <http://www.cottenfuneralhome.com/>.

FirefighterCloseCalls also reported this story, and noted— as news reports did— that the Highway Patrol estimated excessive speed at the time of the accident. Perhaps there's a discussion to be had about having discussions at times like these. Is it more appropriate to grieve and console now, and talk about the tragic lessons later? Do you strike while the proverbial iron is hot? Do you try to do both, but with as much compassion and understanding as possible? Perhaps even discussing the discussion is difficult, and worth waiting for. My condolences the family and the firefighters...

Legeros - 01/19/11 - 08:50

Condolences to the family as this is a very tragic loss. I believe everyone recognizes and understands the causative components of these forms of "accidents." Avoidance of initial/open discussion is likely centered around respect, however just like our wonderful society now demonstrates daily, "Political Correctness" often sneaks into our posturing. Sometimes the truth behind why/who/how we are killed is clouded because nowadays EVERYONE KNOWS that: guns kill people, cars kill drivers, Tea Party members kill Democrats, tobacco companies kill tobacco users, etc... It's just plain silly. My hope is that emergency response personnel (try to) always think before reacting – in everything they do.

A.C. Rich - 01/19/11 - 10:19

And driving 85 mph in the rain or wet roads kills people as well. I find it hard to have sympathy for my fellow firefighters when they die this way or when they are killed while street racing. It is terrible for the family and close friends but please.

Mike - 01/19/11 - 16:18

I find it very disgusting ppl and their comments. I personally went to school with Jeffrey and was friends with his brother Jonathon. Yes Jeffrey made a mistake driving fast however do you know if he did it on purpose maybe his truck malfunctioned maybe the carmat got stuck on the petal. This we will never know because Jeffrey is no longer here to defend himself. Can you please keep heartless comments to yourself and let the family of this great caring and loving mans legacy of loving to fight fires and loving ECU overcome crazy negative comments the family does not need this they Need Prayers and condolences if anything. Thanks just may opinion

Britt - 01/19/11 - 19:07

So does this count as a lodd since he was headed to department training? If so what a huge shame to all the other brothers that have passed doing the job and not being careless as this young individual. This comment is not meant to be degrading or pushing aside any grief they family maybe having. Looking at what has been posted about this individual's driving habits shows that it wasnt a stuck mat or a malfunction. Just a huge lack of better judgement. God rest his soul

AB - 01/19/11 - 21:56

No offense. This should not be a discussion specifically on Mr. Grega, but should be a discussion on "discussing" one of the top killers of firefighters – motor vehicle accidents. NO Firefighter death is in vain, however for the ones of us who are still stuck in this world, we should gather something and hopefully make a difference. Who knows, someone reading this discussion or hearing of Jeffery's death may somehow alter their own behavior to act or even project a safer cause. We are so often hesitant to discuss overt issues due to political correctness, perception, or even emotion... indeed a dilemma centered around compassion, empathy, and respect. So, back to Legeros' point... and I quote:

"Perhaps there's a discussion to be had about having discussions at times like these. Is it more appropriate to grieve and console now, and talk about the tragic lessons later? Do you strike while the proverbial iron is hot? Do you try to do both, but with as much compassion and understanding as possible? Perhaps even discussing the discussion is difficult, and worth waiting for."

A.C. Rich - 01/20/11 - 11:43

New Bern Sun Journal story on the memorial service, <http://www.newbernsj.com/news/honored-94..>

Legeros - 01/23/11 - 12:45

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

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No

Comment:

/ [Textile](#)

Comment moderation is enabled on this site. This means that your comment will not be visible on this site until it has been approved by an editor.

To prevent spam we require you to answer this silly question

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

[\(Register your username / Log in\)](#)

Notify: Yes, send me email when someone replies.