



Hey,

As you know, yesterday afternoon a Firefighter from the Trout Run Fire Company (in PA) was killed in the Line of Duty. Firefighter Richard Springman, 20, was responding in his personal vehicle to a very serious 2 car crash on Route 15, when he crashed. Firefighter Springman was ejected from his vehicle and died in the Line of Duty from injuries sustained in the accident.

Details are that he hit a guardrail and after hitting it, FF Springman over steered, causing his truck to travel sideways across both southbound lanes and up onto another guardrail. After sliding on the guardrail, the truck rolled over before landing upright in the middle of the southbound lanes, about 300 yards north of the crash he was responding to. **FF Springman, who was not wearing a seat belt, was ejected from the truck, landing about 15 feet from his vehicle.**

Hepburn Township and Trout Run Firefighters were dispatched to the 2nd scene. However, within minutes after the second crash, all Trout Run Firefighters were taken off the assignment and directed to go to their firehouse on Route 14. Other EMS and fire companies were called to assist at the scenes. Our sincere condolences to all affected by the loss of FF Springman.

#### **KANSAS EXPLOSION & FIRE UPDATE:**

As you know, 6 Kirwin (KS) Firefighters were injured (2 critically) when a semi trailer with an acetylene gas welding cylinder and flammable liquids inside caught fire, then erupted in at least one large explosion Tuesday evening. The blast critically injured Firefighters Rex Lowe and Chester Peak, who were airlifted to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb. Four other Kirwin Firefighters were taken to area hospitals and released after treatment. Kirwin, population about 200 is served by a VFD consisting of about 1 dozen Firefighters.

Earlier in the day Tuesday, contractors had been using cutting torches to remove the old epoxy-sealed, wooden roof of the Kirwin water tower. The crew members had gone for the evening, leaving behind their truck, which was filled with equipment. Shortly after 1900 hours, KFD Firefighters received a report that the roof of the water tower was on fire, along with grass in the road ditch below and the back tire of the semi trailer, which was parked along the road at the base of the tower. The water tower is located about a half mile west of Kirwin. Rose Rozmiarek, Chief investigator for the Kansas

State FM's Office, said the fire is believed to have been accidental. Investigators believe debris from the burning water tower roof dropped down beside the truck, catching the back tires on fire. That fire built, as it set materials on the truck ablaze, she said.

**The Fire Was Quickly Extinguished, but then:**

The tire and ditch fires were extinguished quickly. But as Firefighters were standing just feet from the back of the trailer, considering how to tackle the fire on top of the water tower, the first explosion ripped through the trailer and injured the Firefighters. A second blast also was said to have occurred.

Firefighter Chester Peak was hit by the back doors of the trailer as it exploded. FF Peak was airlifted to Kearney with head injuries and a broken arm. A hospital spokeswoman said Wednesday he remained in critical condition. Firefighter Rex Lowe was also airlifted to Kearney and remained in critical condition Wednesday.

Firefighter Justin Ehm was taken by ambulance to the Kearney hospital with an injured shoulder. He was treated and released. Firefighters Nate Roth and Dan Johnson were taken to Phillips County Hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion. And Firefighter Justin Gibson was taken to Rooks County Health Center with injured hands.

2 fire apparatus from the KFD were heavily damaged. One was blown about 150 feet down the hill from the blast. Both were Ford 1-ton chassis grass fire response units with small water tanks and pumps on board. We wish the KFD members all, a rapid recovery.

**Take Care-BE CAREFUL-SLOW DOWN-USE (and enforce) SEAT BELTS, WITHOUT EXCUSE.**

BillyG

The Secret List 7-15-10-/ 1151 Hours

[www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com)