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# Motorcyclist dies in crash in Huntington

By CATHERINE BAUM  
Staff Writer

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Sunday, August 2, 2009

HUNTINGTON - The chief mechanic of the Westfield Fire Department was killed in a motorcycle accident on County Road Saturday night.

Glen Walz, 39, of Westfield, died from the injuries he received in a collision with another vehicle on County Road around 7:30 p.m., according to Huntington police. He died at the scene.

A motorcycle enthusiast, Walz was riding a 1971 Triumph motorcycle westward on County Road when his motorcycle collided with a Geo Tracker driving eastward on County Road.

"He loved it," said Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Pac, describing Walz's admiration for the motorcycle.

The driver of the car, whose name was not released, was transported to Cooley Dickinson Hospital by ambulance with non life-threatening injuries, police said. The Huntington Police Department and State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section are investigating the cause of the accident.

The accident occurred on a remote section of County Road in the vicinity of house No. 43, according to police. State police in Russell responded to a 911 cell phone call reporting the accident.

"The corner is a down-hill slide," said Huntington Police Chief Robert Garriepy. "It's another one of the back country roads."

A Westfield native, Walz leaves his wife, Dawn Walz, and two teenage sons. The fire department established a memorial fund to help Walz's family pay for funeral arrangements. Contributions may be addressed to Care of Westfield Firefighters, United Cooperative Bank, 10 Elm St., Westfield, MA 01085.

Pac met Walz when Walz joined the department 12 years ago. Walz was recently promoted to chief mechanic of the department, maintaining and repairing the department's approximately 10 emergency response vehicles and a number of other vehicles.

"He took his job very seriously and he always had 100 percent effort," Pac said.

Pac said the department is working on "a few other things" to remember Walz, and will soon release more information on its plans.

Prior to joining the department in Westfield, Walz was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army.

Garriepy, who owns a motorcycle, said public awareness of motorcycles has grown in recent years.

"Motorcycle safety is more prevelant today than it was five years ago because there's such a large volume of them on the road," Garriepy said.

Walz was wearing a helmet at the time of the accident, he added.

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