

# Witness recounts scary Southampton accident

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SOUTHAMPTON - A West Springfield man was injured after his car hit a camper parked on the side of the road with a for sale sign on it and flipped over, landing upside down around 10 a.m. Monday.

According to witness Lynn Owen, of Windsor Locks, Conn., the vehicle went on and off the road before hitting a camper on the side of the road, at which point it flew about 20 feet in the air and rolled over onto Route 10 near the intersection with Valley Road.

Police said James Moore, 57, of West Springfield, was driving the vehicle. He was treated and released from Baystate Medical Center in Springfield Monday, according to a hospital spokesman.

Ryan Holmes, of Southampton police, said a medical condition caused Moore to lose control.

Owen said she was driving north on Route 10 ahead of Moore's car when she looked in her rearview mirror and noticed the vehicle swerving on and off of the road for 2,000 to 3,000 feet. Moore's vehicle passed Owen on her left as she slammed on the brakes, crossed over to the front right of her car and drove into a gulley wide enough to fit three cars, Holmes said. The vehicle then traveled about 150 feet before hitting a camper, which then hit a horse trailer, causing it to flip about three times at the intersection of Route 10 and Valley Road, Owen said.

'I just couldn't believe my eyes,' said Owen, who was driving her 12-year-old granddaughter Amber to her daughter's house. 'I've never seen anybody drive so erratic on the road. I kept saying to my granddaughter, 'Look Amber! Look Amber!'

Another passer-by who witnessed the accident went to see the driver, who was trapped inside, Owen said. Owen joined him and asked Moore how he was feeling, Owen said.

'I said 'Are you all right?' and he said, 'I'm in Hartford,' Owen said.

Owen said she normally is careful to pay attention to her mirrors while driving.

'Driving home I'm really going to be watching all the windows and mirrors,' Owen said. 'Somebody upstairs told me to look in all the mirrors. Thank God for the brakes.'

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