

UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE



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Fatal Crash On SR 736

On October 6, 2026, at approximately 7:02 a.m., the Union County Sheriff's Office 911 Communications Center received a 911 call reporting an injury crash in the 10000 block of State Route 736 in Darby Township, Union County. The caller reported that a semi-truck had struck a forklift in the roadway. The Darby Township Public Safety Officer, deputies from the Union County Sheriff's Office and troopers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol were dispatched to the scene.

The preliminary investigation indicates the forklift was being used to remove building materials from a stationary semi-truck and trailer that was parked in the southbound lane in front of a residence. The forklift was actively removing materials from the trailer when it was struck by a 2013 Peterbilt, which was traveling northbound on State Route 736.

Following the initial collision, the Peterbilt traveled off the east side of the roadway and came to rest in a residential yard. The forklift spun and came to rest in the northbound lane of the roadway. During the collision, the 24-year-old male forklift operator was ejected from the forklift and came to rest in the ditch line.

After the initial crash had stabilized, a 2018 Kenworth subsequently struck the forklift. The Kenworth was able to come to a stop a short distance north of the initial crash scene.

The 24-year-old forklift operator was transported from the scene by Pleasant Valley EMS to Riverside Hospital for treatment of his injuries. The operator was later pronounced deceased by medical personnel from Riverside Hospital.

During the crash investigation, a commercial enforcement trooper responded to the scene to assist with the investigation. As a result of the investigation, the trooper discovered both the load weight for the 2013 Peterbilt and the 2018 Kenworth were in excess of legally permitted weight amounts for the roadway. The overweight amounts were 5,500 pounds and 6,100 pounds. The trooper issued citations for these overweight violations.

The crash remains under investigation by the Union County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Marysville Division of Fire, Pleasant Valley Fire District and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).