

**Tilton Police Department**  
**Press Release**  
**August 1, 2016**

On August 1st at approximately 4:40 PM, the Tilton Police Department received a 911 call via “On-Star” through 911 dispatch in Concord of a vehicle operating erratically traveling eastbound which was now just involved in a head on collision in the area of 748 Laconia Road, just west of the Roadway Inn. Following the original 911 call, there were several more 911 calls of a serious accident in that area with entrapment.

When Police and Fire arrived they found two vehicles on scene with heavy damage. The Tilton Northfield Fire Department EMS checked the vehicle with the most damage and found the operator badly trapped inside the vehicle. They immediately confirmed she had very serious injuries from the accident and was deceased. Police and Fire worked several hours to investigate the accident and removed the trapped occupants from the vehicle. This left Laconia Road closed for several hours and traffic was detoured through Sanbornton.

From our initial investigation and witness statements, we believe a 2003 Dodge Caravan, color silver was driving eastbound on Laconia Road in the 700 block when it collided with a 2003 Ford F450 pick-up color green with a flatbed which was traveling westbound.

The operator of the 2003 Dodge Caravan, who pronounced dead at the scene was a Josephine Lepelley age 72 of Northfield and the operator of the 2003 Ford pick up was a Mathew Otto of Belmont. There were no other passengers in either vehicle. The Dodge Caravan had 2 small dogs in it which both survived and were reunited with the victims family.

The Belknap County Traffic Accident Reconstruction Team (TAR Team) responded and assisted the Tilton Police Department. The accident is still under investigation and anyone with information and or who witnessed the accident should contact the Tilton Police Department at 603-286-4442.

Submitted by; Chief Robert Cormier, Tilton Police Department