

**Urbandale Police Department
Media Release**

Effective: 03-11-09

Cancel: 03-12-09

Topic: A 30-year-old Urbandale man dies in unusual motor vehicle accident/fire

On Monday, March 09, 2009, at approximately 11:55 P.M., Urbandale Police responded to 4217 68th St. on report of a vehicle being driven into the yard of a private residence and possibly stuck in the mud. While enroute to the scene, additional 911 calls updated the initial report adding there was possibly an orange glow coming from underneath the vehicle, and the vehicle and adjacent garage may be on fire. The responding police units upgraded their response to emergency status and Urbandale Fire & Rescue were dispatched to respond to the scene as well.

Upon arrival, officers located a maroon 2001 Ford Windstar van wedged between a detached garage and a chain link fence. The van was on fire and had caught the detached garage on fire as well, with flames reaching above the garage. Officers were unsure if there was in fact anyone still inside the van but broke out the back window in an attempt to gain entry and check for any victims. Dark heated smoke billowed out from inside the burning van and officers determined that it was impossible for them to enter the van.

Officers evacuated the two nearest residences and controlled the scene while the Urbandale Fire Department worked on putting out the fire. Upon extinguishing the fire, investigators discovered the body of an adult male located in the front floorboard area of the van. Circumstantial and physical evidence have lead investigators to tentatively identify the victim as 30-year-old Christopher Dean Waggoner of Urbandale, IA. Waggoner lived with his parents' one street west of the accident scene and investigators believe he mistakenly entered the driveway of 4217 68th St. thinking he was arriving home.

The Polk County Medical Examiner's Office determined that Waggoner died from a combination of fire and smoke related injuries. Toxicology testing will be completed to determine if there were any contributing factors in this tragic accident. DNA testing will be conducted to scientifically confirm the identity of the victim in this case due to the unavailability of dental records.

The Ford Windstar van, the garage at 4217 68th St., a vehicle in the garage and another car in the driveway were all destroyed in the fire. The house at 4217 68th St. sustained damage to the exterior siding. No other injuries were sustained as the result of this accident/fire.

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