

A **49 year old male** police officer was **struck by a tractor trailer** while trying to remove a ladder laying in the roadway on I-75 near mile marker 73.8 in Lenoir City.

The victim was responding to a 911 call about a ladder laying in the roadway on I-75 north at mile marker 73.8. As he was headed to the scene, the victim activated his emergency lights at approximately mile marker 72 and began to conduct a rolling roadblock. A rolling roadblock consists of the deputy either driving down the center of the two lanes of the highway or swerving back and forth between the lanes to slow the traffic down behind him before coming to a complete stop. The victim stopped in the right lane and the ladder was in the left lane. The victim had stopped the traffic, which consisted of two vehicles in the left lane behind him at approximately mile marker 73.8. As he exited his marked patrol car to remove the ladder, a semi-truck approached and did not stop, striking the two stopped vehicles in the left lane. The semi-truck then crossed the center line, striking the victim as he exited his car, and then striking the victim's patrol car.

It was determined during the investigation that the employee did receive training on conducting rolling roadblocks at the State's Law Enforcement Training Academy and it appears the employee was performing it correctly, as two other cars had come to a stop behind him. The victim had also activated his emergency lights. The victim nor the employer could have controlled the actions of the semi driver. The illegal actions of the semi driver are being addressed through criminal charges.

As a result of the incident, the semi driver was arrested and charged with vehicular homicide, reckless endangerment (x3), driving under the influence, simple possession, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Also, the driver of the vehicle that the ladder fell out of was arrested and charged with driving on a suspended license and three misdemeanor charges of reckless endangerment. He had not properly secured the ladder in his vehicle.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

No violations were observed or documented; therefore, no citations were issued.

Struck By Vehicle—Insp # 1579373 Loudon County- Sheriff's Department

