



FARIBAULT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

COMMITMENT ♦ INTEGRITY ♦ PROFESSIONAL

July 12, 2023

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Two tractor-trailers involved in a crash and subsequent fire

At 11:54 a.m. on July 12, 2023, the Faribault Fire Department, Rice County Sherriff's Office, North Ambulance and Minnesota State Patrol were dispatched to an accident involving two tractor-trailers. One tractor-trailer ran into the back of another tractor-trailer near mile marker 62 in the southbound lanes of Interstate 35. The caller reported it as "looking really bad."

Shortly after the initial call, we were informed that there was smoke coming from the vehicles and that someone was using a fire extinguisher. Upon our arrival, a Rice County Sherriff's Deputy and a passerby had pulled the driver of the second tractor-trailer out of the cab and to a safe location. He was responsive and had suffered burns to part of his body. He was attended to by North Ambulance personnel and airlifted from the scene with life-threatening injuries. The driver of the tractor-trailer that was rear-ended was uninjured.

The Faribault Fire Department did an initial knock down of the fire. Morrystown Fire Department was later requested for mutual aid for water supply. Once the fire was knocked down, we conducted a coordinated operation with Dean's Towing to fully extinguish the fire. We cleared the scene at 4:24 p.m.

One firefighter was transported by fire personnel to Allina Hospital to be treated for an injury sustained while fighting the fire.

Fire Chief Dustin Dienst commented, "This was a tragic event and we hope and pray that the driver is OK. While on scene, we were also witnesses to many other close calls as traffic raced by. Please slow down and pay attention to the road, especially around accidents and construction areas."