



Event Type: Driving in Smoke and Dust

Date: April 22, 2022

Location: Road 702 Fire
Nebraska

Driver Becomes Disoriented in Smoke Resulting in Fatal Entrapment

Narrative

A retired Fire Chief died in a vehicle-related incident due to poor visibility caused by blowing dust, smoke, and debris. This former chief, acting as a spotter (scouting), was driving his vehicle during this time of low visibility to get to a place where he could provide some intel on the Road 702 Fire.

While driving through a smoky and dusty area—where visibility was 10 feet or less—he became disoriented, his vehicle left the road, and he became stranded off the road when his vehicle became high-centered. He perished outside of his vehicle.

Lessons

- ❖ Use EXTREME caution when navigating a vehicle in/through/around or to/from an incident scene.
- ❖ Communicate your position to the Incident Commander or others.
- ❖ Check in often.
- ❖ Only operate a vehicle at speeds that will allow you to see your path, recognize obstructions, and avoid collisions.
- ❖ If a travel path outside of the limited visibility area is available to you, and the alternate path is safe, consider its use.

This RLS was submitted by:
Nebraska State Fire Marshal

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