

Bloxom Firefighter killed in Fire Truck accident



A Bloxom Volunteer Firefighter died Monday morning when the firetruck in which he was a passenger ran off the road and crashed. The accident took place at approximately 11:30. The Firetruck was en route to another accident on Rt. 13 at the time.

According to Virginia State Police the driver of the fire truck, James Richard Lambirth, lost control of the vehicle while in a curve, ran off the road, striking several trees, overturning and ejecting the passenger, David Raymond Chew, Jr.. Mr. Chew was not wearing his safety belt at the time of the accident and died on impact. The driver, Mr. Lambirth, was taken to the Peninsula Regional Center Hospital in Salsbury, Maryland, where he is being treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Notification has been made and charges are pending with the review of the case file by the Commonwealth Attorney.

Chew was a volunteer firefighter at Bloxom but was employed in Northampton County as a paid EMT. Chew had been recently appointed as minister for Hallwood United Methodist Church in Hallwood. Chew formerly served as a pastor at the Greenbackville Charge of the United Methodist Church and was an active volunteer for the Boy Scouts.

WESR General Manager Charlie Russell, whose family attends Hallwood Methodist Church, said "This is tragic in so many ways. David had just been appointed to our church and was excited to be there. Sunday night we all went to a Shorebirds game. David was there with his 3 year old son and wife Becky, and his parents. The loss of David is a tragedy for his family, for the fire

company, for the EMT force, for the Boy Scouts and for the Methodist Church in Hallwood and for the Eastern Shore. We are all stunned and in shock."

Funeral Services are pending at the Williams Parksley Funeral Home.

