



**WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE CORONER**

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Charles King  
Chief Deputy

Timothy Carson  
Coroner

James Robinson  
Solicitor

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 6, 2022**

<u>Nature of Release:</u> Motor Vehicle Fatality	<u>Date and Time of Incident:</u> October 6, 2022 2:45 AM
<u>Incident Location:</u>	State Route 217 near Victory Street Derry Township
<u>Person(s) Involved:</u> <b>Decedent:</b> Christopher M. Howe, 36 y/o male Address: Maple Avenue Blairsville Borough, Indiana County  Date and Time of Death: October 6, 2022, at 3:50 AM	
<u>Incident Details:</u>	<b>Cause of Death: Multiple Blunt Force Injuries Due to: Single Vehicle Collision</b>  <b>Manner of Death: Accidental</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Westmoreland County Coroner, Timothy Carson, has released the following information on a motor vehicle collision that occurred in Derry Township.</li><li>▪ The decedent, Christopher M. Howe, was the operator and lone occupant of a vehicle traveling north on State Route 217.</li><li>▪ The decedent failed to negotiate a right curve in the roadway, crossed the centerline into the opposite lane of travel, left the west side of the roadway striking a guiderail, overturned, and struck a tree.</li><li>▪ The decedent was ejected from the vehicle and the vehicle caught on fire.</li><li>▪ Deputy Coroner Joshua C. Zappone pronounced the decedent dead at the scene.</li><li>▪ The decedent suffered fatal blunt force injuries in the collision.</li><li>▪ Speed is believed to have been a factor in the incident.</li><li>▪ The decedent was not utilizing a seatbelt at the time of the incident.</li><li>▪ Airbag deployment is unknown at this time.</li><li>▪ Cellular phone use being a factor in the incident is unknown at this time.</li><li>▪ Cause and manner of death is reflected above.</li><li>▪ Toxicology results will not be available for several weeks.</li><li>▪ Stuart Funeral Home of New Florence will be in charge of arrangements.</li><li>▪ Pennsylvania State Police Indiana Barracks also investigated.</li></ul>
<b>****No further information is available at this time****</b>	