



HAWTHORNE POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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Suitable For Public Dissemination

Fatal Traffic Collision

Vehicle versus Signal Pole

135th Street/ Hawthorne Blvd

On 4/2/15, at approximately 1000 hours, a Toyota minivan was traveling eastbound in the 4500 blk of 135th Street at a high rate of speed. The driver drove over a speed bump in the roadway and lost control of his vehicle. The vehicle and its sole occupant continued eastbound in the westbound lanes of travel and entered the intersection of Hawthorne Blvd. The vehicle was launched into the air when it hit the dips in the roadway and ultimately collided into a signal pole, located on the east side of the center median, and came to an abrupt stop.

The van burst into flames and several witnesses rushed toward the vehicle to attempt to extract the driver from the burning wreckage; however, the intrusion into the cab portion of the vehicle entrapped the driver in the wreckage. The Los Angeles County Fire Department responded immediately and was able to extinguish the flames, but the unidentified driver was too severely wounded and was pronounced deceased at the scene.