



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

Fran McLaughlin
Public Information Officer
Cell: 414-254-9488
Phone: 414-278-5226
fran.mclaughlin@milwcnty.com

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Third Car Crash in a Week on Hoan Bridge No Distress Lane for Motorists

Milwaukee, WI – The third crash on the Hoan Bridge in a week occurred on Saturday, October 8 at about 7:30 a.m., and involved two cars in the southbound lanes north of the bridge arches. A vehicle was disabled in a lane of traffic when another southbound motorist struck it.

One of the cars was on fire after the crash, requiring closure of the southbound lanes for about 1-½ hours. Standing traffic behind the scene was turned around and safely removed via the Lincoln Memorial Drive on-ramp. The Milwaukee Fire Department responded to extinguish the fire and assist an injured occupant who was complaining of neck and back pain. The driver of the disabled car remained in her vehicle, as is recommended if stalled or involved in a crash on the freeway.

Sheriff Clarke asked the Wisconsin Department of Transportation last week to revisit the construction traffic pattern plan to determine what adjustments they can make to improve safety in that area. The Sheriff's Patrol Division Captain met with the DOT on Friday and is waiting for their review of the traffic engineering issue.

The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office is advising motorists traveling on the Hoan Bridge during construction to be aware that traffic can slow suddenly as construction workers frequently move equipment into the through-lanes of traffic. There is no distress lane for disabled motorists, creating another dangerous hazard when vehicles are stalled or involved in a crash.

In the earlier crashes, one occurred Friday morning at 6:20 a.m. and involved a motorcyclist and a car. The motorcycle operator sustained very serious injuries, though not life-threatening. A crash on Tuesday resulted in the death of a man who was stalled in a lane of traffic looking under the car hood, when another car struck his vehicle sending him over the bridge railing.

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