



Event Type: Driving in Smoke and Dust

Date: April 7, 2022

Location: Road 739 Fire
Nebraska

Driving in Smoke Results in Fatal Head-On Collision

Narrative

While driving on a highway to navigate through the fire scene, a Fire Chief and a County Emergency Manager were involved in a head-on collision with a water tender.

Visibility due to blowing smoke and dust was less than 10 feet.

The crash resulted in the death of the Fire Chief and life-threatening injuries to the Emergency Manager, who was driving the 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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