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## Delaware roads: Crash near Smyrna Rest Area kills 2

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An SUV involved in a collision that killed two social workers on U.S. 13 near Smyrna on Thursday was involved in two hit-and-run crashes shortly before on Del. 1, state police said today.

According to police, Christopher Sturfels, 42, of Middletown, was driving a 2006 Subaru Impreza north on U.S. 13 approaching Duck Creek Road, near the state rest area, about 4:30 p.m. Mark Bednash, 53, of Newark, was driving a 1993 Ford Explorer south on Del. 1, reportedly in an erratic manner.

While on Del. 1, Bednash was involved in two separate "relatively minor" hit-and-run collisions, said police spokesman Senior Cpl. Jeff Whitmarsh.

Bednash exited Del. 1 onto U.S. 13 south at the north Smyrna exit.

On U.S. 13, Bednash lost control and veered left into the northbound lanes of travel, where the Explorer struck the Subaru head-on, police said.

Sturfels and his passenger, 47-year-old Michael T. Kriner of Newark, were pronounced dead at the scene. Bednash was flown to Christiana Hospital, where he was admitted in critical condition.

The two dead men were longtime social workers at Connections Community Support Programs Inc., which provides medical, mental health, and substance abuse treatment for Delaware residents, a colleague reported this morning.

Whitmarsh said, "Several witnesses have called in and provided valuable information which has helped to piece much of this incident together."

Traffic in the area was restricted for about five hours as police investigated.

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