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License revoked in '01 for driver in fatal crash

Records show she had several violations

By KEVIN HOFFMANN The Kansas City Star



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McGowan

A woman involved in a fatal collision with a Kansas City firetruck Sunday had previously lost her driver's license for several traffic infractions, including a drunken-driving charge.

Police have not released the name of the 37-year-old Kansas City woman, but they confirmed Tuesday that she had been driving on a revoked license. No charges had been filed Tuesday.

According to records from the Missouri Department of Revenue, the woman's license was revoked Oct. 2, 2001, after she compiled too many points on her driving record. She was convicted of three violations from a May 2001 incident — careless and imprudent driving, leaving the scene of an accident and driving while intoxicated.

She was convicted in 2000 of an improper lane change and in 1998 of failing to produce insurance and not having a driver's license.

Police said no toxicology tests were conducted on any of the drivers involved in Sunday's wreck.

Gerald McGowan, 57, died in the wreck, which occurred just after 5 p.m. Sunday. He had been in the passenger seat of the pumper. Police do not think he was wearing a seat belt.

Three other firefighters on the truck were injured. One remained hospitalized Tuesday but was expected to be released soon. Another motorist who was driving a car that was struck by the pumper suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

Police gave this account of the Sunday accident:

The woman was southbound on Blue Ridge near 81st Terrace in a Chevrolet Lumina when she stopped to turn left into a driveway. Blue Ridge is four lanes there, two northbound and two southbound, and the Lumina was in the inside southbound lane.

Pumper 33 was southbound heading to a fire and tried to pass on the left of the Lumina. Police and firefighters are trained to pass vehicles on the left because motorists are supposed to yield to emergency vehicles by pulling to the right side of a roadway.

The driver of the Lumina told police she did not hear or see the truck, which had its lights and sirens on.

Police were still trying to determine the truck's speed. Witnesses said it was not excessive, according to Police Sgt. Randy Sims.

The Lumina was four or five feet into its turn when it was struck on the left side by the pumper. The firetruck ricocheted about 120 feet and slammed head-on into a car that had stopped near the curb of the northbound lanes.

The truck continued out of control to the south, severed a utility pole and slammed into a tree.

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First glance
Funeral plans

- *Police confirm that a woman involved in the accident that killed a firefighter was driving on a revoked license.*

First glance
Funeral plans

The Fire Department will hold a "Line-of-Duty Death" ceremony for Gerald McGowan. Other arrangements:

- ***Visitation*** will be from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday** at **Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 7009 Blue Ridge Blvd.**
- ***Services*** will be at **10 a.m. Saturday** at the **Music Hall, 201 W. 13th St.**
- ***Burial*** will follow at **Mount Olivet Cemetery, 7601 Blue Ridge Blvd.**