

Child killed after being struck by vehicle on Deatsville Highway

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By Sarah Morrison Stephens

A two-year-old child has died after being struck by a vehicle around 10:35 p.m. Saturday near the Devonshire Apartment complex.

The vehicle, a 1999 Pontiac Grand Am sedan was traveling southbound on Deatsville Highway when the driver saw a small child standing in the roadway.

The driver stated he attempted to avoid collision by applying his brakes and swerving to the right, but was unable to avoid contact. The driver immediately stopped traffic and removed the child from the roadway, instructing others to call for help.

The victim was treated at the scene by Millbrook Fire medics, and taken to Prattville Baptist where he was in critical condition suffering massive trauma. He was later transported to Children's Hospital in Birmingham, but was pronounced dead at 11:45 a.m. Sunday.

"At this time the Millbrook Police Department is conducting a traffic homicide investigation," Police Chief P.K. Johnson said. "Both our Traffic Homicide Unit and our Criminal Investigative Unit responded to the scene last night. I have spoken to investigators from both units last night and throughout today. At this time our investigators do not believe speed was a contributing factor in this collision. The collision was not alcohol or drug related. It appears that the victim, who had been playing with his sibling inside a near-by apartment, somehow left the apartment without his mother's knowledge, just prior to the collision.

"This appears to be a horrible accident, which resulted in the tragic loss of this poor child. Our heart and prayers go out to both the victim's family and the driver. I understand that the driver was very distraught at the scene. Our investigation will continue and the facts of this case will be presented to the Elmore County Grand Jury for its consideration, which is standard procedure anytime a traffic collision results in death. According to our investigators, we have no reason to believe that any criminal charges will be forthcoming in this case based on the evidence we have reviewed in our preliminary investigation."