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Police ID man killed in crash; damaged I-95 barrier wall still not fixed

February 12, 2013 | By Mike Clary, Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE — — A 10-foot hole punched through a barrier wall over Interstate 95 remains unrepaired a week after a fatal crash left a bakery truck dangling over the highway.

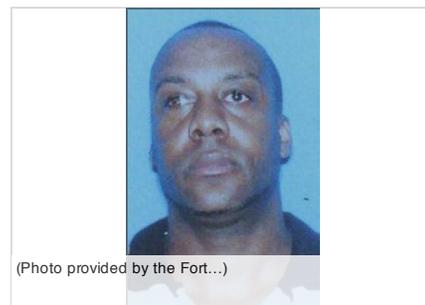
Now covered with a sheet of plywood and fronted by a temporary plastic barrier, the gap in the wall along State Road 84 at the end of the I-95 northbound exit ramp cannot be fixed, say transportation officials, until another state agency cleans up fuel and hydraulic fluid leaked as the truck hung from the roadway.

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"We can't do anything until [the Florida Department of Environmental Protection] gives us the all-clear," said Department of Transportation spokeswoman Barbara Keller.

That agency has hired a contractor to dig up contaminated soil from a grassy area below S.R. 84 and adjacent to I-95. The clean-up should take no more than a day and could begin Wednesday, spokeswoman Dee Ann Miller said Tuesday.

Once that work is completed, a DOT contractor will erect scaffolding underneath S.R. 84 to repair the wall, said Kelleher.

Meanwhile, Fort Lauderdale police on Tuesday identified the man killed in the Feb. 6 crash as 37-year-old Algie Omar Clark of Miami.

Clark was in the passenger seat of the truck being driven by Buenaventura Fernandez, 43, an employee of Tracy Bakery of Palmetto Bay, in southern Miami-Dade County.

Detective DeAnna Garcia said the release of Clark's identity was delayed because investigators were unable to find next of kin. She said police released his name in hopes a relative would come forward.

Police identify Miami man killed in crash on State Road 84 - Sun Sentinel

The crash happened just before 5:30 a.m. as Fernandez attempted to make a left-hand turn at the top of the exit ramp, according to police.

Fire-rescue crews used a ladder and ropes to pull Fernandez from the cab of the truck as it dangled some 50 feet over the roadway below. He was treated for minor injuries.

Clark's body was later extricated from the wreckage.

Clark was a friend of Fernandez, but he was not authorized to be in the truck as it was making a delivery run to Tampa, said company comptroller Majid Shah.

Asked how Fernandez was doing, Shah said, "He's in a great deal of pain, mentally and physically. It is just a terrible situation."

Fernandez, a member of the family which owns the bakery, remains employed, but not as a driver, Shah said.

The crash remains under police investigation.

Anyone with information on Clark is asked to call traffic homicide investigator Don Goedke at 954-828-5754.

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