



**Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### ***Fire & EMS Handles Unusual Spike in Auto Accidents***

**(Washington, DC) – Yesterday’s severe weather caused the DC Fire & EMS Department to experience an unusually high call volume involving motor vehicle accidents.**

**Between the hours of 2:00 PM yesterday and 7:00 AM today, Fire & EMS crews handled 29 auto accidents due to the icy roads. This high volume was handled as the Department responded to an extraordinary number of calls, due to slip and fall accidents and general calls for medical emergencies. In the 24 hour time period between Midnight yesterday and Midnight this morning – Fire & EMS responded to an amazing 568 calls for service. All the calls were handled quickly, responsibly and professionally.**

**“Our performance during these very trying conditions is nothing short of stellar,” said Fire & EMS Chief Dennis L. Rubin. “It demonstrates our Department’s commitment to duty and service to the citizens of the District.”**

**Among the 29 auto accidents, were at least three critical incidents requiring technical rescue and extrication. Units responded at 4:22 PM yesterday for the Metro bus accident on the West bound 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Several people were complaining of injury. DC Fire & EMS dispatched its Mass Casualty Task Force, which consists of appropriate EMS resources and an ambulance bus capable of transporting several patients simultaneously. In all, six patients were treated and transported to various hospitals for what were called non-life-threatening injuries.**

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**At 4:45 PM, Fire & EMS units responded for what was a critical crash on in-bound Benning Road at Anacostia Avenue, Northeast. A 24-year-old woman lost control of her compact car, and it collided with a light pole, knocking the pole down and severely pinning the woman inside. Fire & EMS responded with a technical rescue assignment to stabilize the car, treat the patient and extricate her so she could be transported quickly (photo attached). The woman suffered injuries to her lower extremities but is expected to survive.**

**At 5:55 PM, a rescue assignment was sent to the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> & N Streets, Northwest for a man who had been struck by a car. Paramedic Engine 9 located an adult male who had been struck and was suffering from serious injuries. The man was treated on the scene and transported to a nearby trauma center for further treatment and is expected to survive.**

**On a typical day, Fire & EMS responds to approximately 400 calls for service. Conditions change from time to time creating hazards, such as yesterday's ice storm. Fire & EMS was able to put extra units in service with the appropriate staffing levels to meet the extra demand for emergency response, which included many slip and fall accidents and the continuing pressures experienced by EMS and hospitals dealing with a high volume of flu patients.**

**Chief Rubin congratulated members of the Department today saying, "I admire the pride, professionalism and dedication that each member [of the DC Fire & EMS Department] brings to work every day! Thank you for all that you do for our City."**

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