



Blauvelt Landscaper Killed After Runaway Truck Rolls Backward, Pins Him

BY: Cameron Vestal

A man died Thursday morning after an unoccupied Ford F-350 pickup truck rolled backward and struck him at a work site on Bradley Parkway in Blauvelt, New York. Emergency crews found him pinned beneath the truck and pronounced him dead at the scene, and investigators still have not determined why the vehicle began moving on its own.

Accounts of the exact timing differ. According to [Patch](#), police responded to Bradley Parkway at about 8:21 a.m. on October 8, while [Mid Hudson News](#) reported police were called to the scene at around 8:20 a.m. that same morning, and [News 12 Westchester](#) placed the incident closer to 8:30 a.m. Reports also disagree on the victim's age — [lohud.com](#) identified him as 68, while [News 12 Westchester](#) reported he was 67 — and his identity had not been publicly released, per the [Mid Hudson News](#) report.

Truck Had No One Inside When It Rolled

[Patch](#) reported that responding officers found the man unresponsive and pinned under a Ford F350 pickup truck. A preliminary investigation indicated the truck, which had no one inside, began rolling backward and struck the man for reasons still under investigation, according to a report from [Daily Voice](#). Emergency medical personnel pronounced him dead at the scene, the same outlet noted.

Authorities are still working to determine why and how the truck rolled away on its own, per the report from [News 12 Westchester](#). The outlet reported that police said the man worked for Pro Cut Landscaping and Construction, and that investigators examined a company vehicle at 833 Bradley Parkway as part of the inquiry.

Multiple Agencies Responded to the Scene

The response drew a wide swath of local and state resources. [Mid Hudson News](#) reported that Orangetown Police were assisted at the scene by the Rockland County Sheriff's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation, State Police, South Orangetown Ambulance Corps, Rockland Paramedic Service, Blauvelt Volunteer Fire Department and a representative from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. As of Friday, the fatal accident remained under investigation by the Orangetown Police Department Accident Investigation Team, according to the same [Patch](#) report.

A separate account of the crash, published by [MetroLaw.com](#), noted that the Rockland County Sheriff's Office and emergency units arrived at the crash scene and found the victim unresponsive beneath the truck before he was pronounced dead. That outlet's writeup, aimed at readers researching legal options, pointed out that New York's wrongful death statute generally limits recovery to a family's financial losses rather than punishing wrongdoing, since the state's Estates, Powers and Trusts Law focuses on compensating loss over penalizing a defendant.

What New York Law Says About Wrongful Death Claims

Under New York Estates, Powers and Trusts Law Section 5-4.1, the duly appointed personal representative of a decedent survived by distributees may bring an action to recover damages for a wrongful act, neglect or default that caused the death, against a person who would have been liable to the decedent had death not occurred, according to the [New York State Senate](#). The filing period for such a claim is two years, and [MetroLaw.com](#) noted that separate survival claims, which depend on whether the deceased person experienced conscious pain before death, can carry a different filing deadline.

Punitive damages are generally unavailable in a wrongful death claim itself but may be pursued through a separate survival claim requiring especially reckless or intentional conduct by a defendant, [MetroLaw.com](#) reported. Under [Section 5-4.3](#) of the same law, as cited by the New York State Senate, punitive damages may be awarded for deaths occurring on or after September 1, 1982 if those damages would have been recoverable had the decedent survived. New York courts reserve such damages for willful, wanton or reckless disregard for other people, and factors such as toxicology results, driving histories and maintenance logs would shape whether a punitive damages request is realistic in a given case, per the [MetroLaw.com](#) report.

No cause for the truck's movement has been determined, and no arrest, citation or lawsuit tied to the Blauvelt crash has been verified. [MetroLaw.com](#) disclosed that its accident reporting is sourced from police and fire departments, news outlets, social media and eyewitnesses, and that it has not independently verified the information, adding that its coverage is for informational purposes only and is not legal or medical advice.