

One dead after I-70 crash

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Kate Snyder

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(Photo: .)

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ZANESVILLE - One person died after an early morning crash on I-70 that closed part of the interstate for several hours.

The crash occurred at 6:05 a.m. on Tuesday in the eastbound lanes of the interstate at the 149 mile mark in Springfield Township, according to the Ohio Highway Patrol.

Raliat M. Ikharo, 27, of Columbus, was traveling east on 70 in a silver 2011 Toyota Corolla, according to the highway patrol. Scott M. Hendershot, 47, of St. Clairsville, was traveling west on 70 in a white 2015 Mack semi truck pulling a trailer loaded with a steel coil.

Hendershot fell asleep at the wheel and drove his semi truck through the median into the east lanes and overturned, ejecting the steel coil he was hauling, according to the highway patrol. The steel coil hit Ikharo and sent her car into the guardrail. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Hendershot had minor injuries and refused to be transported. Both he and Ikharo were wearing seatbelts. Alcohol is not considered a factor in the crash.

Muskingum County Sheriff's Office, National Trail Fire Department and EMS, Falls Township Fire Department and EMS, Community Ambulance and the Ohio Department of Transportation assisted at the scene.

The crash is still under investigation by the highway patrol. Possible charges are pending.

