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Friday, December 30, 2011

Man found dead in burning car on Worcester-Holden line is identified

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HOLDEN — Firefighters called last night to a put out a fire in a car fire just over the Worcester line discovered a body inside after putting out the flames.

Authorities have identified the victim as Matthew Chasse, 40, of Worcester.

Worcester District Fire Chief William O'Connell said when firefighters with Engine 9 out of the Tatnuck Square station arrived, they found the 2006 Hyundai Elantra fully engulfed in flames. When they extinguished the fire, firefighters noticed a person's body inside.

The fire was reported about 10:15 p.m.

The car was resting on its passenger side at the edge of the northbound lane of Reservoir Street. Olean Street becomes Reservoir when it enters Holden. The car apparently had spun around because although it was in the right side lane, its headlights were facing backward.

After putting out the fire and finding the body, authorities and firefighters searched the nearby wooded area for other people, but no one else was found.

There were no other vehicles visible on the roadway last night around the site of the burning car and District Chief O'Connell said there didn't appear to be anyone else at the scene.

A fire investigation unit from the Worcester department went to the scene to offer assistance. In addition, officials from the Worcester district attorney's and the state Medical Examiner's offices were at the scene.

Holden police and firefighters, as well as many of those providing outside assistance remained at the scene late last night. Olean and Reservoir streets were blocked off in both directions near the car fire site.

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