



NEW BERN POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
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# City of New Bern

FOUNDED 1710

New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage



**FRANK PALOMBO**  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
(252) 672-4190

PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

September 23, 2011

## SINGLE VEHICLE CRASH RESULTS IN FATALITY

On September 23, 2011 at approximately 2:54 a.m., Officers of the New Bern Police Department responded to the intersection of Neuse Blvd and Karen Drive for a report of a damaged vehicle involving a possible crash. The caller also stated the driver of the vehicle was unresponsive.

Upon arrival, officers located a white 2006 Chrysler 300 at rest in the roadway on Karen Drive. The vehicle was occupied by one female in the driver's seat. CarolinaEast Emergency Medical Services paramedics also responded. The driver was later pronounced dead.

The Traffic Unit responded to the scene to further investigate causes for the fatality. The investigation revealed the Chrysler traveled west on Neuse Blvd and left the roadway as it was approaching 2723 Neuse Blvd (Field & Stream Sports). The vehicle hit an embankment, traveled across the Field & Stream Sports parking lot, and rolled over before coming to rest on Karen Drive.

**Ernestine WILLIAMS, DOB: 5/16/1968, of 103 Brookshire Drive, New Bern NC** was identified as the driver in the Chrysler.

This incident is still under investigation and an autopsy is scheduled for today. It is not clear if speed or alcohol is a factor in this fatality. Further information will be released as it becomes available.

The New Bern Police Department is committed to Community Policing. Citizens are encouraged to become a **"Partner in Policing,"** by reporting suspected illegal activity to the New Bern Police Department's **TIPS** line at **(252) 636-5034** or the Craven County Crime Stoppers line at 633-5141.

For additional information, please contact Lt. Linda T. Godette, Public Information Officer, at the New Bern Police Department at 252-672-4196.

John West, Interim Chief of Police