



## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Jason Salazar, Chief of Police*

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\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*

March 4, 2015

**VPD Report Number:**

15-02908

**Date/Time Occurred:**

3/3/15 1412 hrs.

**Type of Incident:**

Fatal traffic collision

**Location:**

W/B Caldwell west of Akers

**Party:**

Withheld pending notification

**Details:**

On the listed date and time, the Visalia Police Department responded to Caldwell Ave. west of Akers for a report of a traffic collision. The investigation showed a 2001 Chevy box van was traveling W/B Caldwell west of Akers. The vehicle continued west on Caldwell along the right hand edge of the roadway and out of a lane of travel and collided head on with a Southern California Edison utility truck which was parked and unoccupied on the north edge of Caldwell.

The collision caused a fire in both vehicles. The driver of the 2001 Chevy was unable to exit the vehicle and died at the scene. The Visalia Fire Department responded and extinguished the resulting fire. The identity of the driver is being withheld pending notification of family. There were no other reported injuries.

The investigation into the cause of this collision is continuing. It is unknown if drugs or alcohol were a factor. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Visalia Police Department at (559) 734-8117.

**Update:**

The deceased driver of the 2001 Chevy box van was identified as Christopher Paul Nelson, D.O.B. 11/11/56 from the city of Exeter. The investigation into this collision is ongoing by the Traffic Unit.

**Investigating Officers:**

VPD Traffic Unit

**Supervisor:**

Sgt. J. Andrews

