



Sheriff Steve Stovall

Stephenson County Sheriff's Office

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Chief Deputy Andy Schroeder
815-235-8317
aschroeder@stephensoncountyil.gov

FATAL TRAFFIC CRASH INVESTIGATION

On September 23, 2025, at approximately 3:07 p.m., Stephenson County Sheriff's Office personnel responded to a report of a single-vehicle crash in the area of U.S. Route 20 East and Rock City Road. Deputies arriving on scene located a vehicle with significant front-end damage in the north ditch.

The driver and sole occupant, a 76-year-old woman from Galena, Illinois, was transported to a nearby hospital where she was later pronounced deceased.

Preliminary investigation indicates the vehicle had been traveling westbound on U.S. Route 20 East when, for unknown reasons, it veered off the roadway and entered the north ditch. While traveling through the ditch, the vehicle struck an embankment and became airborne before coming to rest near a residential driveway in the 7500 block of U.S. Route 20 East. All airbags were deployed during the crash.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation. The name of the decedent is being withheld pending notification of next of kin. An autopsy has been scheduled for today.

The Stephenson County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the German Valley Fire Department and the Stephenson County Coroner's Office for their assistance at the scene.

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