

**WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
801 JACKSON STREET
SALEM, INDIANA
812-883-5999**

NEWS RELEASE

TYPE OF OCCURRENCE: Farm Tractor Roll Over Causing Death

DATE OF OCCURRENCE: Saturday August 27th, 2022

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: Becks Mill Road

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Lieutenant Wayne Blevins

OTHER DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED: Salem Police Department, Washington County Ambulance Service, Washington County Coroner's Office, Howard Township Volunteer Fire Department.

DETAILS: On Saturday, August 27th, at approximately 7:21 pm, the Washington County Sheriff's Department received a 911 call in reference to a tractor roll over with a male subject trapped underneath of it in the 8000 block of Becks Mill Road. Law enforcement, first responders and emergency medical services responded to the call.

First Responders arrived on the scene and began performing CPR on the male driver that had been pulled out from underneath the tractor. The male subject was later pronounced deceased at the scene of blunt force trauma to his chest and abdomen area.

The deceased was identified as Jonathan Helmuth, age 52 of Salem (Rosebud area). Helmuth was operating a 4320 four-wheel drive John Deere tractor, pulling a flat bed utility trailer with (7) total family members on board the trailer, heading north on Beck's Mill Road, near Mt Carmel Road. Family members stated as they came down a hill, Jonathan had pressed the clutch in on the tractor and when he depressed the clutch, the tractors wheels were going faster than the drive train and the wheels locked up causing the tractor to veer to the left abruptly causing the tractor and trailer to jack knife and run off the roadway, down an embankment, rolling over. Jonathan was ejected from the tractor with the tractor rolling over coming to a rest on top of his upper body.

Washington County Ambulance Service checked the other passengers that refused any medical treatment with no apparent injuries at this time. Becks Mill Road was closed for about three hours during the investigation. The investigation continues pending the Coroner's findings.

Lieutenant Wayne Blevins is the lead investigating officer.

Sheriff Brent Miller

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