

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **West Orange Fire Department FF Injury Update and Meal Train Support**

**West Orange, NJ – August 5, 2019** – At approximately 1000 hours on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, West Orange Fire Department was dispatched to Route 280 East at Exit 9 for a motor vehicle crash involving a tractor trailer and a utility pick-up truck with an unresponsive patient. Initial FD response was an engine and a rescue ambulance. While on scene with the crew rendering care to the patient in the patient compartment of the ambulance, the ambulance was struck from behind by a loaded tandem dump truck sending the ambulance crashing into the engine in front of it. In the rescue ambulance, the 2 member FF/EMT crew, a NJ State Trooper and the patient all sustained injuries of a varied nature with one FF sustaining significant injuries. All ambulance occupants and additional NJ State Troopers outside the vehicle were transported to University Hospital for evaluation and treatment. The members of the engine company crew of 3 as well as 2 West Orange Police Officers were also transported to St. Barnabas Medical Center for evaluation. Mutual aid from Essex County Fire and EMS task forces and Nutley HazMat responded to assist with the Incident and post-incident operations.

Four of the five Firefighters and both Police Officers were released from the respective hospitals later that day. While showing signs of improvement, Firefighter, William Holder, 43, remains in serious but stable condition in the ICU at University Hospital as of Monday, August 5th.

FF Holder has been with the West Orange Fire Department for 6 years. He is a married father of 4 children. Department photo attached to this release.

A “Meal Train” page had been established by FMBA Locals 28 and 228 on behalf of FF Holder’s family. Anyone wishing to donate to support Will’s family can go to... <https://mealtrain.com/1ge2k3>. The page offers various ways to lend support to accommodate all those who have asked to help, however, the FMBA requests at this time that the family’s privacy be respected and the community utilize this dedicated mechanism rather than contact any family member directly.

The West Orange Fire Department is a multi-faceted public safety agency located in Essex County, New Jersey. WOFD provides fire protection, hazard mitigation, emergency medical services, fire prevention education and fire code enforcement to the community of West Orange and its neighboring mutual aid communities.

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