

Chased Car Slams Lenoir Fire Station, Truck

Written by Steve Frank

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Eyewitnesses described a high speed chase through downtown Lenoir like something straight out of a movie, according to a report shared by WSOC-TV. "Literally felt like a rocket ship go right pass my car..." That's how one driver said it felt as the chase passed her car and ended with a convertible crashing into the main fire station in Lenoir. Dave Faherty from WSOC-TV was there shortly after it ended where he spoke with firefighters who scrambled to be out of the way. Faherty's picture showed what is left of that convertible that struck a Lenoir fire truck parked in the bay, the impact so hard here the convertible actually knocked the 30-thousand pound firetruck several feet. Inside the main fire station in downtown Lenoir firefighters say they ran for their lives as the out of control convertible headed right toward them around lunchtime today.

Deputy Chief Ken Hair, Lenoir Fire told Faherty, "We saw it coming toward the building and I told everyone...I said some poor choice of terminology...and we jumped into the ready room. Still some of the wreckage debris still came into the ready room." The high speed pursuit started about two and half miles away along Hickory Boulevard near the intersection of McClain drive. Police say it was part of an undercover drug operation in Lenoir when the driver took off. A mother with her children saw the car go airborne before it hit the building. Jonivel Anvino, told Faherty, "It is crazy. We were actually getting ready to visit with the kids to the family resource center. It is just insane." Both people inside the car were seriously injured including one who had to be airlifted to Carolina's Medical Center. Undercover narcotics officers searched the car removing items. Several eyewitnesses questioned the department's decision to pursue the car into the downtown area. Adrienne Shuford McCann, Eyewitness, said, "I don't think things like that need to be happening in an area like this during lunchtime where the streets are extremely narrow and it just seem irresponsible." Faherty asked the police chief about the pursuit here and he told us his department does have a chase policy and he believes it was followed in this case. But he will review the video from the patrol cars involved and analyze the witness interviews to make sure.