

UPDATE: NC 16 Blocked at State Line

Written by Steve Frank
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A Gastonia man was critically injured in that accident this morning that blocked highway 16 at the North Carolina-Virginia line. 20-year old Andrew Julian Lopez-Singh was pinned in the wreckage of his Honda for an hour as rescue workers labored to free him. His vehicle slammed nearly head-on into a tractor-trailer at about 6am just inside Virginia, causing the truck to land in a ditch, spilling fuel and causing fire response. The New River Fire Department responded out of Ashe to help with the traffic situation, directing travelers to alternate routes. An med-evac chopper landed near-by, transporting the young Gastonia man to Holston Valley Medical Center, but in need of heart surgery due to his injuries, and the surgery team already involved, he was then flown to The University of Tennessee for the surgery. The investigating Virginia trooper said that Andrew did not have his seat belt on and that the impact with the steering column broke it off, causing the serious chest injury. The trucker suffered only minor injuries in the accident.