

Trucker Loses Brakes, Hurt in Crash

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Thursday, 21 November 2013 12:43

A trucker was injured—entrapped in the rig of the tractor portion of the truck—after a mid-morning crash yesterday just inside Wilkes County near the Watauga line. Trucker Norman Basinger overheated his brakes after using the wrong gear navigating the steep slope heading south on US 421, but managed to find the first sand pit just after crossing from Watauga into Wilkes. But the rig was apparently traveling fast enough that the ridgets combed into the turn-out wrecked the cab of the truck, trapping Basinger in the cab as it bounced to a stop nearly at the end of the turn-out. Wilkes Rescue, Wilkes EMS, Champion Fire/First Responders all converged on the scene of the 10:25am wreck, and the Rock Hill SC trucker was treated at the scene, then at Wilkes Regional Medical Center while the state patrol investigated the crash. He was cited for Exceeding a Safe Speed in the crash that totaled the '96Freightliner with its load of leather from Carroll Leather Goods.