

2 Killed in Christmas Eve Accident

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An accident on Christmas Eve took the lives of two people along Interstate 40 near the Catawba County line in Long View.

According to the N.C. Highway Patrol, George Kittle, 66, and his wife, Carol Kittle, 66, both of Hollytree, Ala., had stopped along the right shoulder of the westbound lane of the interstate, just west of exit 121 Tuesday morning. Both had almost finished changing a flat tire when another truck sideswiped their truck. The collision threw the couple over 100 feet, and both suffered fatal injuries.

The driver of the truck that struck the couple, Harvey Lee Stevens Jr. of Oak Ridge, Tenn., reported he saw someone in a vest and knew he had hit something. He stopped his truck, walked back to the scene, saw one of the victims, and called 911. Stevens is charged with two counts of misdemeanor death by vehicle. Crews had to shut down part of the interstate as cleanup took about 4 hours to complete.