

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2016



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UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (October 18, 2016) The victims were Eric O'Brien Williams, age 35, of Portsmouth, and Stephen Louis Wilk, age 60, of Moyock, North Carolina. Please note the correct spelling of Mr. Wilk's first name

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (October 18, 2016) Suffolk Fire & Rescue Deputy Chief Ted Adams advised that the vertical concrete culvert, or pipe, where the victims were confined was 20 feet deep and 3 feet wide.

Technical Rescue crews from Suffolk Fire & Rescue, Virginia Beach Fire & Rescue and Chesapeake Fire & Rescue assisted in the recovery efforts utilizing rope and harness equipment.

The victims, both employees of the John C. Holland Landfill, have been identified as Eric O'Brien Williams, of Portsmouth, and Steve L. Wilk, of Moyock, North Carolina. The ages of the victims are not available at this time.

The investigation remains ongoing.

UPDATE

SUFFOLK, Virginia (October 18, 2016) Suffolk Fire & Rescue and the Suffolk Police Department advise that both of the individuals are confirmed as deceased.

The cause of death is undetermined at this time.

The Suffolk Police Department and OSHA will be conducting the investigation.

The names of the deceased will be provided as soon as the next of kin have been notified.

SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE TECHNICAL RESCUE ON SCENE AT JOHN C. HOLLAND LANDFILL

SUFFOLK, Virginia (October 18, 2016) Suffolk Fire & Rescue Technical Rescue crews are currently on the scene of a confined space technical rescue incident at the John C. Holland Landfill.

Emergency Communications received the call at 11:06 a.m., and the first units arrived on scene in the 4800 block of Nansemond Parkway at 11:19 a.m.

Deputy Chief Ted Adams advised that two adult male employees are confined to a vertical concrete culvert at the landfill. Technical Rescue crews from Chesapeake, Norfolk and Virginia Beach were also contacted to assist in the ongoing rescue efforts. Due to the location of the incident in the 70-acre landfill, 4-wheel drive vehicles had to be utilized in order to transport the crews and their equipment.

The Suffolk Police Department is providing traffic control at the scene.

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