



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

June 11, 2008

To: Area Media Outlets

Ref: Significant lightning event

On June 11, 2008 @ approximately 12:30am a Hampton police officer initiated a traffic stop on Rte 1A on the south side of the Hampton /Seabrook bridge. At the time of the traffic stop the Hampton area was experiencing severe weather in the form of rain, thunder and lightning.

Officer Reno had approached the offender's vehicle and was attempting to get the driver's information when a lightning strike hit the ground in close proximity to the officer. Officer Reno was temporarily incapacitated and fell to the ground. Officer Reno's partner, Officer Hanbury was riding with him for the shift, heard the crack, saw the flash and saw Officer Reno fall to the ground. Officer Hanbury reacted and immediately took control of the situation.

Officer Hanbury transported Officer Reno to the Hampton Fire station at the beach. Hampton Fire / Rescue personnel evaluated Officer Reno and transported him to the Exeter Hospital.

Hospital staff performed a variety of tests on Officer Reno and he was eventually discharged and cleared to return to duty. Officer Reno returned to duty to finish out his shift.

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