Fatal crash involves Adkins tour bus

Saturday, February 13, 2010
Caddo sheriff's deputies are investigating a double fatality traffic crash that involved a bus carrying members of Trace Adkins' band.

Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator said none of Adkins' band members were killed in the accident; however, five people on the bus were taken to a local hospital with minor injuries. The deceased were both occupants of the second vehicle involved in the crash, a Ford F-250 truck.

The accident occurred around 9:30 a.m. today on U.S. Hwy. 71 between Hosston and Ida, LA, in north Caddo Parish. According to witnesses, the truck was traveling northbound when its driver crossed the center line and hit the southbound bus head on. The truck spun 180 degrees in the center of the road, and the bus veered off the highway into a ditch.

Firefighters with Caddo Fire District #8 extricated two male victims from the truck. Both were pronounced dead at the scene by the Caddo Coroner's Office. The driver was identified as Justin R. Maxey, 21, of Fouke, Arkansas, and the passenger was identified as Jeffrey R. Ferguson Jr., 36, of Texarkana, Arkansas. The five bus passengers were taken by ambulance to North Caddo Memorial Hospital in Vivian.

Sheriff Prator said there were nine people in all on the tour bus. Adkins arrived at the scene in a private vehicle shortly after the crash and spent about 30 minutes there with the uninjured band members and speaking with emergency responders. He and the uninjured occupants of the bus then left the scene together in a van enroute to the Vivian hospital.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation by the Caddo Sheriff's Office Traffic Safety Unit. Witnesses reported seeing the truck weaving on the roadway prior to the accident.

The band was scheduled to make an appearance in Bossier City, LA, tonight.