

A man who lived in the Deputy area of Scott County died in a fiery crash on Jack Morgan Road on Wednesday morning, June 13.

Joshua "Josh" Curtis Campbell, 32, was identified as the driver of the 2004 Chevy Cavalier which burst into flames after it ran off the country road. The site is northeast of Austin.

Information provided by Chief Deputy Don Campbell of the Sheriff's Department related that Josh Campbell had been headed south on Jack Morgan Road around 9:30 a.m.

Witnesses reportedly told the officer that the car had halted at the four-way stop at Harrod Road. Then, the vehicle quickly sped down a small, sloping hill, going off the road's west side and following a weedy, overgrown ditch line. It struck a mailbox but avoided hitting a utility pole, coming to rest among tall weeds. At that point, the car apparently burst into flames, trapping Campbell inside. He was pronounced dead at the scene by Scott County Deputy Coroner Jerry Buchanan.

9-1-1 calls to the county's central dispatch alerted the Sheriff's Office, Scott County EMS and Jennings Township volunteer firemen. Austin Police Chief Donald Spicer also responded and was one of the first at the scene. "There was nothing anyone could have done," stated Chief Spicer. He described the car as "...a big fireball..." when he arrived.

Sheriff Dan McClain, Detective Rick Barrett and Deputy Jeremy Arnold also went to the scene to assist.

Chief Deputy Campbell said on that Wednesday afternoon that there was no information available yet to support the supposition that the younger Campbell may have been having trouble with the car. The fire was so hot that the car's license plate melted and its paint peeled off.

Det. Barrett said on Monday, June 18, that the accident remains under investigation by the department. An autopsy was performed, it was learned.

Campbell was born in Louisville, Ky., and raised in Austin. He was a graduate of Austin High School and attended Elevation Church in Scottsburg. His funeral service was conducted on Tuesday morning, June 19, at the Buchanan Funeral Home in Austin. The Rev. Gary Satterly officiated. Following another service on Tuesday at the Bethany Baptist Church at Deputy, burial was in the church cemetery.