

Madison driver learns to obey 'Road Closed' signs in Austin community

Written by Marty Randall

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A Madison woman apparently had to learn the hard way that when a sign is posted by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), it's wise to obey it.

Lucy Dattilo, 45, was driving on Saturday afternoon, April 5, west along State Road 256. As she neared the Austin city limits, a "Road Closed" sign stopped her. But only momentarily.

According to the accident report filed by Deputy Shawn Mayer with the Sheriff's Department, Dattilo apparently decided she could get around the sign. The closure of S.R. 256 in Austin began April 1 because of a road improvement project that involves that eastern most section of S.R. 256 from the city's limits to Church Street, just before the highway's intersection with U.S. Highway 31.

Dattilo, the report related, pulled into a driveway and then traveled onto the rain-soaked grass shoulder, driving the 2013 Ford Fusion westward along a privately-owned fence row on the road's north side.

Unfortunately, that plan didn't work out like Dattilo had figured.

The compact car got stuck in the softened shoulder. Help was summoned, and the car was rescued.

Dattilo was cited for an infraction. Damage to her car and to the privately-owned property on which she had trespassed was estimated at up to \$5,000.