

Nurse's Accident: 5 readers

Anchor 1: Well, nursing professionals called it a dramatic example of what can go wrong when healthcare workers don't get enough sleep. Boston Police say that in the early morning of May 17th, an officer arriving at Faulkner Hospital saw a heavily damaged white Grand Cherokee, part of Faulkner's parking garage guardrail missing on the top floor, and an injured woman being attended to by paramedics.

Anchor 2: Boston Fire told the officer that somehow the woman had driven the vehicle off the top floor of the garage. Boston 25 News has learned that the vehicle landed on a nearby shed before tumbling into a grassy area off to the side. Our field reporter is on site with more details.

Reporter: Boston 25 News has learned that an exhausted, on-call nurse hit the gas instead of the brake and the car toppled off the garage front-first. The woman told police she had finished working her shift but was on call beginning at 11 PM. She decided that rather than go home, she would sleep in her vehicle. Around 1 AM, she moved to get away from bright lights — and that is when the incident happened. I spoke with a nurse who recently retired, and she is not surprised by the incident.

Retired Nurse: I really sympathize with the nurse, and I can certainly understand how it happened. I don't think people realize how exhausting this job is. I worked for 40 years as a nurse. The public underestimates the physical and emotional toll on nurses just from doing their jobs: from moving heavy patients to the stress of engaging in life-saving procedures to coping with death. I mean, I have driven home from working nights with the window open, slapping my face to keep myself awake.

Reporter: The Massachusetts Nurses Association spokesperson confirmed the driver was a nurse.

MNA spokesperson: While this incident was particularly dramatic, MNA said it is not uncommon for nurses to be involved in accidents on the way home — because of extreme fatigue brought on by long shifts, sometimes compulsory overtime and a lack of adequate help.

Reporter: Reporting from Faulkner Hospital, I'm [name]. Back to you, [anchor 2].

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Anchor 2: Nurses continue to make up the largest portion of the U.S. healthcare team. But recent studies make clear that working conditions are having an effect on those numbers. Now on to other news.

Information and quotes adapted from the following source:

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/nurse-drives-off-top-floor-212132961.html>