

JOUR199 Story by Kofi Hopps

An overpass accident on the Interstate 74 has reoccured for the second time in two years as Emily Sawyers was killed from a falling large piece of granite. A large granite rock crashed through the windshield of Emily's car and split her head open, which caused her to crash the car. This is the second time in the last two years that someone has been killed by falling objects from the overpass. Last year, Samuel T. Howe was killed in a similar fashion as a can of gasoline dropped onto his car from an overpass onto Interstate 57.

Celine Taylor, her 86 year old mother who was in the passenger seat, was injured but not killed from the crash. She was treated at Carle for multiple bruises and a broken arm. They were going to a church in St. Joseph before the incident. The culprits of the crime have yet to be identified, but there has been a report of young males throwing debris onto the I-74 from the Prospect Avenue overpass around the time of the accident. No other vehicles were involved or damaged in the crash today.

Sawyer was 43 years old and the mother of three children who are all under the age of ten. Sawyer was a breast cancer survivor two years ago and an administrative aide at the Champaign Unit 4 Schools. Sawyer's two sisters, Felicity Strove and Donna Taylor spoke on the incident, "This was a senseless tragedy. Emily was a wonderful mother and caring daughter. Who would do this to a perfect stranger, just for kicks? It could have been any one of us or any of our kids. We hope that steps can be taken to prevent this from happening to anyone else."

If anyone has any information about the accident or the identity of the people who committed the crime call Champaign Crimestoppers at (217) 373-TIPS.