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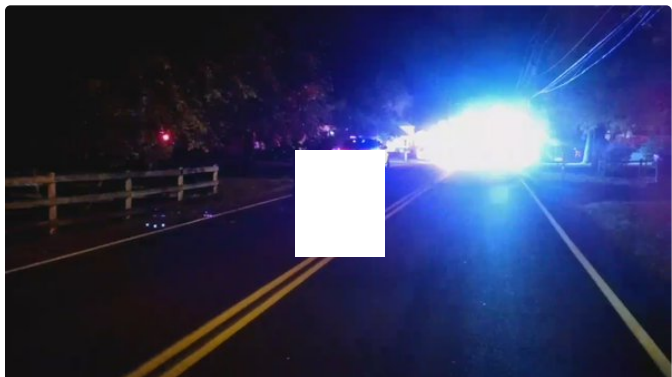
Vehicle strikes Colonie tavern; apparent burn victim

Updated 12:58 am, Saturday, October 29, 2016

COLONIE — A man at Blessings Tavern was apparently burned after at least one vehicle apparently struck the business during a busy Friday night, witnesses said.

The intersection of Watervliet Shaker Road, where the tavern is located, and Consaul Road was packed with police cars and fire trucks. **National Grid** and at least one ambulance responded.

Police kept people away from the immediate scene, but some **media outlets** were able to get close-up shots of the destruction, which showed a crumpled and singed pickup truck atop a car up against the building.



Tim Blydenburgh

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Steve Cheslow, a **Times Union** employee who was at the tavern, said he heard "a big boom." One man was rolling on the ground. Everyone was concerned about the cook in the kitchen. There was panic, worry and chaos, and everyone was told to get out, he said.

"The roof was still burning when I left," he said.

Other witnesses said attempts were made to help the burn victim.

"It just went 'poof!'" said patron **John Ashley**, who was with his wife. He said he tried to get the man to safety. The fire happened during the popular karaoke night.

There was no word on the man's condition. An ambulance left the scene with a police car escort.

Calls started coming in at about 11 p.m. An indication of the complicated response could be surmised from a responder's comment on the police scanner looking for more aid: "We've got multiple things going on here."

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