# Studio Grip Dies in Car Accident After Overnight Shift on '9-1-1' Set



On May 13, 2024, Rico Priem, a 66-year-old studio grip, died in a car accident after completing a 14-hour overnight shift on the set of the ABC series "9-1-1" in Pomona, California. The accident occurred approximately at 4:30 a.m. and involved Priem's vehicle leaving the highway, ascending an embankment, and flipping onto the road. Authorities noted that alcohol was a suspected factor in the crash, though the investigation remains ongoing.

Priem was a veteran in the film industry, having worked on other productions including "Six Feet Under," "Deadwood," and "American History X." His death has sparked calls from colleagues and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 80 for improved safety measures for film and television crews, particularly concerning the risks associated with driving after exhaustive work hours.

In response to his passing, colleagues and the union emphasized the need for safer working conditions in the industry. 20th Century Television expressed condolences, reflecting the sentiments of the wider "9-1-1" team.

The incident has coincided with ongoing contract negotiations that IATSE is conducting with studios, where topics such as working hours and conditions are being deliberated.