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Veteran police dispatcher dies suddenly after minor accident

Nancy D. Cranmer had just left work and was driving her vehicle when she suffered a medical emergency.

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A veteran dispatcher for the City of Pueblo died shortly after leaving work Friday as she suffered a medical condition while driving her Ford Explorer on Grand Avenue.

Nancy D. Cranmer died of natural causes at 10:12 p.m. in the emergency room of Parkview Medical Center, according to Pueblo County Coroner James Kramer.

The exact cause of death for the 57-year-old is pending results of an autopsy.

Cranmer, a 14-year police, fire and 911 dispatcher, had finished her shift at the police department about 8:10 p.m. Friday, according to Chief Jim Billings.

About 9:30 p.m., while driving north on Grand, she apparently lost control of her vehicle, which crossed oncoming lanes of traffic and came to rest on the sidewalk in front of the First Baptist Church in the 900 block of North Grand. Police and rescue crews were called to the scene and found Cranmer unresponsive. They spent several minutes trying to revive her at the scene to no avail.

"Nancy was a well-respected dispatcher that a lot of people looked up to," Billings said. "She could do it all. She was very well versed in dispatching."

Billings said Cranmer had a history of heart problems, but said she had not mentioned any health complications while working Friday.

A police chaplain was called in to talk to grieving dispatchers, Billings said.

Although not a sworn officer and not on duty at the time, Cranmer's death marks the second member of the Pueblo Police Department to lose their life this year. On June 22, officer Nick Heine died on duty of a congenital heart defect.