



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Columbia man dies in industrial accident in Annapolis Junction

Victim fell down hill and became trapped under lawn mower

Howard County police are investigating an industrial accident in Annapolis Junction where a Columbia man working for a landscaping company died.

Celerino Baltazar-Avila, 27, of the 8800 block of Tamar Drive in Columbia, was mowing a commercial property in the 9000 block of Junction Drive in Annapolis Junction when police believe he lost control of a lawn mower and fell down a steep embankment about 10 feet. Baltazar-Avila was working for Premiere Lawn Service, based in West Friendship.

An employee of a nearby business was on break at approximately 2 p.m. when the he discovered Baltazar-Avila and called 911. It is unknown how long Baltazar-Avila had been injured when he was discovered.

Police and Fire & Rescue responded to find Baltazar-Avila pinned beneath a riding mower. Baltazar-Avila was transported by ambulance to Howard County General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at approximately 3 p.m.

Police and the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Administration are investigating the incident.

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