

[https://www.emporiaindependentmessenger.com/news/article\\_d411d918-858f-11ee-b4de-87fd13b13243.html](https://www.emporiaindependentmessenger.com/news/article_d411d918-858f-11ee-b4de-87fd13b13243.html)

FEATURED

BREAKING

## Woman dies in train collision in Jarratt

By Kayla Hardersen, Staff Writer

Nov 17, 2023



The collision occurred at the Grigg Avenue and South Halifax Road train crossing in Jarratt, Va on Friday, Nov. 17.

Kayla Hardersen/Independent-Messenger

A woman died Friday afternoon as a result of a collision with a train on the tracks near the Owen Funeral Home in Jarratt, Va.

At around 12:49 p.m., Sussex Sheriff's Department dispatchers got the call of a vehicle crash at the Grigg Avenue and South Halifax Road train crossing. According to Sergeant Thomas Williams with the Virginia State Police, a 67-year-old Black woman in a blue 2023 Nissan Rogue allegedly drove around the lowered crossing guards and was hit by an Amtrak passenger train. Her car was pushed off the tracks approximately 100 yards from the intersection. The sole passenger, identified as Arnetta Johnson Lucas of Emporia, died upon impact.

No other train personnel or passengers were injured, VSP reported.



An Emporia resident was at the scene later that afternoon, telling responders that the crossing guards at the intersection had been failing to lower properly last week. She said that her sister had been in the middle of the crossing, directly on the tracks when she looked to the left and saw a train approximately 150 feet from her. Her sister jumped the rest of the track and swerved out of the way, she said.

"I don't use this track, I be going down there," the Emporia woman said, gesturing further down Halifax Street. "Cause it's been getting stuck. It don't come down."

The woman reported the faulty crossing guards to the Greenville County Sheriff's Department, who referred her to the Sussex Sheriff's Department. Her sister did not know if she had called the department in Sussex.

*Update 7:58 p.m.: This story has been updated to include the identification of the deceased.*

