

Horror smash kills good Samaritans

Jamie First

Two farm workers trying to keep others safe were killed in a horror car smash witnessed by four young children.

A car ploughed into the men as they worked to clear a fallen tree from the rural road on Friday night.

A 58-year-old male passenger in the car also died, but the driver and four children miraculously escaped.

The tragic accident in Broadwater, northwest of Warrnambool, has left another worker who witnessed it traumatised and distressed.

Neighbours reported hearing loud bangs, followed by the screaming of an 11-year-old girl.

The four children were aged between eight and 12.

Sgt Callum McKinnon, from Warrnambool police, said two men in their 30s were travelling in a Toyota ute when they came across the fallen pine tree in Woolsthorpe-Heywood Rd.

A short time later four of their colleagues arrived at the scene.

The men used a chainsaw to start chopping up the tree.

Three of the men then left to get a bigger chainsaw while the other three stayed behind to continue working on the fallen tree, Sgt McKinnon said.

Sgt McKinnon said: "A short time later a Ford sedan was travelling west along the road with two adult males in the front and four children in the back.

"The driver of the Ford has gone straight in to the tree and hit the male with the chainsaw and one of the males clearing the branches. The other male clearing branches has managed to jump away from the car."

The 58-year-old man, who was the front-seat passenger in the Ford, was hit by parts of the tree and died.

The driver of the Ford sedan was taken to Warrnambool Base Hospital with minor injuries.

Captain Hugh McFarlane, of the Broadwater CFA, said both fire trucks from the local station arrived at the scene shortly after the collision.

“They were doing a good Samaritan job and they were just in the wrong place at the wrong time,” he said.

A neighbor attempted CPR on one of the deceased before paramedics arrived.

The Major Collision Investigation Unit is investigating.