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## Helicopter Crash Kills 3 in Colbert County



**December 30, 2007**

*NewsChannel 19's Jamie McGriff reports:*



Alan Bragwell

Early Sunday morning around 2:45 an Air Evac crew successfully located a missing hunter. The hunter was lost in a wooded area in Colbert County just south of Barton.

They were spotlighting the man while ground rescuers made their way to him.

But something went wrong, the helicopter went down and crashed killing all onboard. The hunter was hurt, but he survived.

The crash victims are:

Michael Baker -- Pilot  
Tiffany Miles --- Nurse  
Allan Bragwell -- Medic

Bragwell was also Interim Director for Keller Ambulance Service. He worked at Keller for 17-years, Shelia Coats worked with Bragwell.

She along with other co-workers are stunned. "I can't believe that it's happening then you have to accept it," she said.

She's not alone. Cherokee Fire Chief Chuck Landsdel heard the news and choked up.

"It just takes your breath," said Landsdel. "You don't ever want to give up and you don't ever give up and then when they tell you bad news it's like let me try. You know, you think if I can get in there I can do something," he added.

The Keller Ambulance Services are familiar with co-workers dying, but not being killed in an accident. This is their first one, and it's tough to deal with.



Michael Baker

Everybody at the ambulance service considered Bragwell a brother.

Dabbing her eyes with tissue, Cindy Kemp, a Paramedic says she looked up to Bragwell.

"He'll be missed, he, Tiffany and Mike. We lost a great thing this morning. I don't think anybody will ever understand what we lost



Tiffany Miles

exactly," said Kemp.

Shelia Coats says she learned a lot from Bragwell.

"He could give you advice," said Coats. "He was always real good about helping the new people and stuff, so he was a good guy."

White bows have been placed on every major entrance of Helen Keller Hospital and the Ambulance Services Department, all in honor of the victims.

Many in the Shoals are waiting to hear what will come out of the investigation.



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