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Metro Bus Operator Dies Following Accident in Willowbrook

- Operator Steve Cook had worked at Metro since 2003

(Jan. 4, 2007) A Metro Bus operator died earlier today following an accident in Willowbrook in which the Central City Division 1 bus he was driving struck a tree. The Line 55 bus had no other occupants at the time.



Central City Division
Bus Operator Steve
Cook.

Steve Cook, 35, joined Metro in August, 2003 as a BDOF operator and was made full-time in March, 2006.

"He was the sweetest person you'd ever want to meet," said Division Transportation Manager Sonja Owens, who helped Cook find a place to live after he began working at Metro. "He enjoyed working and wanted to make something of himself."

The accident occurred at about 12:45 a.m. and it took Los Angeles County Fire Department rescue workers about 45 minutes to extricate the operator from the bus with the "jaws of life," according to a City News Service report. He was pronounced dead at Martin Luther King Hospital at 2:05 a.m.

According to a report by the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau, the Metro bus was southbound on Willowbrook Avenue, which parallels the Metro Blue Line tracks. The bus crossed over the northbound traffic lanes and hit a tree near the intersection of El Segundo Boulevard.

The California Highway Patrol, which responded to the scene, has impounded the bus and is holding it for mechanical inspection and further investigation of the accident.

