FLORIDA

Highway pileup kills at least 10

A long line of cars and trucks crashed on a dark highway so shrouded in haze and smoke from a nearby fire that drivers were blinded. At least 10 people were killed and 18 injured.

Authorities were still trying to determine what caused the pileup south of Gainesville on Interstate 75, which had been closed for a time before the accidents because of the mixture of fog and heavy smoke from a brush fire.

At least a dozen cars and six tractor-trailers were involved, and some burst into flames.

Wreckage was strewn for nearly a mile, and part of the road melted.

When rescuers arrived, they could only listen for screams and moans because the poor visibility made it difficult to find victims.

Steven R. Camps of Gainesville said he and some friends were driving home several hours before dawn when they were drawn into the pileup.

"You could hear cars hitting each other. People were crying. People were screaming. It was crazy," he said. "If I could give you an idea of what it looked like, I would say it looked like the end of the world."

MATT STAMEY Gainesville Sun

PARTS OF I-75 south of Gainesville, Fla., look like a war zone after cars and tractor-trailer rigs crashed one after another in fog and smoke from a brush fire.

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