

Two Killed

Continued from Page A1

Briggs said. Folsom apparently was shocked when he went to Betts' aid, she said.

Police declined to confirm the identities of the men. Local detectives, truck inspectors from a regional traffic team and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration were investigating, Lt. Scott Custer said.

Still, he said, "There is no reason to believe it was anything other than a horrible workplace accident."

Custer said that one of the men — Briggs said that it was Betts — got out of the energized truck, and when he did, he touched the vehicle and was shocked.

The second person, who apparently was trying to assist the first

one, also touched the truck and was shocked, Custer said. The second person also suffered electrical burns.

Both men were in cardiac arrest and were rushed to Hartford hospitals. One was transported by ambulance to St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and the other was airlifted to Hartford Hospital, Custer said.

A CL&P crew went to the scene and turned off the electricity so that medics could provide treatment, he said.

The wires had not been low-hanging when they were struck, Custer said.

Briggs said that Betts had been cleaning out the dump bed when the accident happened. He was preparing the truck for a trip to Maine to pick up road salt, she said.

Unaware that his employee had been injured, Folsom left the office, Briggs said. He got into his pickup truck and must have stopped when

he saw that Betts was in trouble, she said.

"He must have inadvertently touched the truck," she said.

Five minutes after he left, a man came into the office and said that someone — her boss — was on the ground outside. A woman was trying to rouse him by calling his name, she said.

Briggs performed CPR and rescue breathing, and a co-worker and a local contractor helped by doing chest compressions, she said. They didn't immediately see Betts or realize that he, too, had been injured. Her boss' pickup truck was about 10 feet from the dump truck, she said.

Folsom Construction does site construction and infrastructure work, such as water main repairs, Briggs said. It is a seasonal company, with 12 to 15 workers in the winter but 35 to 40 in warmer weather, she said.

The town of South Windsor gave

Folsom a business partnership award last year for successfully completing several critical projects in town.

Friends said that Folsom was a stalwart supporter of the Special Olympics in town and a generous man overall.

South Windsor police Agent Ron Littell, the local coordinator for Special Olympics fundraising, said that Folsom was a reliable and enthusiastic volunteer at town and statewide Special Olympics events. Folsom gave his time, money and equipment and never sought credit, Littell said.

"He was one of those guys behind the show," he said.

That attitude extended to Folsom's everyday actions.

"When you're shoveling your driveway, he'd come by in a plow and open up the end and just leave," Littell said.

When police needed materials for their shooting range, Folsom

donated his time and equipment, Custer said.

"He was really a fixture in the community," Custer said. "He will be sorely missed."

Littell said that he and Folsom were longtime friends.

"He had a huge heart," Littell said.

Folsom was also friends with UConn women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma and an investor in Auriemma's restaurants.

"He helped me with my restaurant at the Mohegan Sun," Auriemma said. "He's been a good friend... When you hear something like this it leaves you kind of numb. You don't know to react."

Jay Murtha, owner of Jay's Landscaping in South Windsor, said he had known Folsom for about 30 years. Murtha said he had worked as a subcontractor for Folsom and described him as a steady friend with a great sense of humor.