

Tragedy strikes last game

By ELLIE TURNER

THE shadow of a horror dawn crash near Ngukurr will hang over a Territory footy grand final.

One of the men who lost his life, aged 32, was a past player of the town's AFL side, Big Rivers League president Dennis Coburn told the NT News.

He said the grieving Ngukurr Bulldogs would wear black armbands today as they battle the Arnhem Crows for the flag.

Requests were made for the game to be postponed for cultural reasons but there was no choice but to go ahead, Mr Coburn said.

A Numbulwar man, 29, was also killed in the smash on the Roper Highway, 10km

from Ngukurr, about 5am on Thursday.

A 27-year-old male passenger was taken to Royal Darwin Hospital.

He had two broken legs and multiple fractures.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson yesterday said: "This is another huge tragedy for the Northern Territory, particularly the small communities of Ngukurr and Numbulwar."

"My heart goes out to the families and friends of those people that have lost their lives and certainly for the Ngukurr team."

"It's going to be a sad grand final — once again the road toll continues to have an impact across the Territory. It devastates families and communities."



My heart goes out to the families and friends of those people that have lost their lives

"And my heart goes out to anyone who has lost a loved one, whether it is a relative or a friend, over the last couple of days."

Police say it is unclear who was driving the car at this stage. The cause of the accident is being investigated. No further details are expected in the short term.



Michael Moriarty's half a million dollar boat Off the Hook being removed from Cullen Bay after the fire
Picture: MICHAEL FRANCHI

Luxury boat fire still mystery

POLICE are unable to say what caused an explosive fire which engulfed two luxury yachts in Darwin.

Detective Sergeant Chris Board said police believe the fire last month started in the cabin of the Sunchaser owned by plumber Travis Uzkuraitis. It spread to Off the Hook owned by builder Michael Moriarty destroying the \$500,000 vessel.

Residents of Cullen Bay were woken on Friday August 29, to explosions and flames leaping 30m into the air.

Twenty-five residents had to be evacuated from their homes along Marina Boulevard because of the heavy smoke. Cullen Bay Marina general manager Robbie Standaloft and lockmaster Kenny Veil managed to drag one boat away from other

moored vessels before it could do any more damage.

They helped resident Graham Townes and a firefighter pull the second vessel on to the rocks.

Fire and Rescue Service investigators have been trying to determine the cause of the fire.

Contact police on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 with information.

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