

# Crash Kills 2 Firemen; Call False

By JOHN RUTLEDGE

Two Dallas firemen were killed, two policemen critically injured and two other firemen hurt at 1 a.m. Tuesday when a fire truck and police car collided at high speed at Zang and Davis in Oak Cliff as a result of a tragic false alarm.

Dead were Fire Capt. W. J. Jones and fireman J. H. Jones. Critically hurt were patrolmen L. B. Kirkpatrick and Ray Underwood.

Less seriously injured were fireman W. A. Massie and fireman W. B. Strickland Jr.

All were sped to Methodist Hospital.

Fire and police investigators said the cab-and-trailer-type ladder truck was running east on Davis to answer a pulled fire-alarm box at Sixth and Denver—a false alarm turned in by a prankster.

Kirkpatrick and Underwood were speeding north on Zang to intercept a wanted car chased across the Houston Street Viaduct by another police car, fellow officers believe.

Both vehicles were using sirens. Robert Cox, 22, of 2810 Sutton told accident investigator G. N. Hoskins he watched from a filling station on a corner as the unmarked blue police car slammed into the right side of the fire engine.

He said firemen flew through the air as they were knocked from seats and running boards. The police car seemed to spin into the air, landing on two of the firemen. Both officers were pinned in the police car.

The long ladder truck slammed sideways onto a gas station apron, and fishtailed down the street until the driver was able to bring it to a halt more than half a block away.