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A look at the troubled history of the truck driver charged in deadly N.H. crash

By [Matt Rocheleau](#) Globe Staff, June 26, 2019, 5:42 p.m.



Volodymyr Zhukovskyy, 23, of West Springfield has been charged with negligent homicide, accused of killing seven motorcycle riders. DON TREEGER/THE REPUBLICAN VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS/POOL/POOL THE REPUBLICAN VIA AP

[Volodymyr Zhukovskyy](#), 23, of West Springfield had a troubling list of driving infractions and arrests prior to [a crash in New Hampshire last week](#) in which the truck driver has been charged with negligent homicide, accused of killing [seven motorcycle riders](#).

Below is a timeline of key known offenses from Zhukovskyy's record:

April 2012 — At age 16, according to court records, police in West Springfield found Zhukovskyy and another man in a car that had crashed into heavy brush. Zhukovskyy was charged with driving without a license, speeding, and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

April 2013 — Zhukovskyy obtained his Massachusetts driver's license.

June 14, 2013 — Zhukovskyy was cited for a "miscellaneous" equipment violation in Springfield.

June 16, 2013 — Zhukovskyy was arrested for drunken driving following an accident in Westfield. Zhukovskyy was sentenced in that case to a year of probation, and his license was suspended for 210 days, the Westfield News reported. There were no fatalities in that case.

June 2014 — Zhukovskyy was stopped in Ohio and charged with driving with a suspended license, speeding, providing false information, and possessing drug paraphernalia. He pleaded guilty a day later.

January 2017 — An employee at a gas station in West Springfield picked up Zhukovskyy's lost wallet and found cocaine and heroin inside, court records show. He pleaded guilty to possession of the two drugs and was ordered to pay a \$200 fine.

July 2017 — Zhukovskyy was arrested and received a 90-day suspended jail sentence in Connecticut for a 2014 case of larceny. The Journal Inquirer of Manchester, Conn., reported that Zhukovskyy told police in that case that he and another person stole ladders and windows from a Home Depot warehouse.

September 2017 — Zhukovskyy, driving a 2006 Honda Odyssey, crashed into the rear of a Chevrolet Silverado that was stopped at a red light in front of West Springfield funeral home as a pedestrian crossed in front of the Silverado, according to police dispatch records. There was “heavy damage” to the front of Zhukovskyy’s vehicle and it had to be towed. The Silverado appeared to only have “minor visible damage,” police records said. No injuries were reported.

May 28, 2018 — Zhukovskyy was escorted by police from the property of a West Springfield hotel and told not to return, according to police dispatch records. It’s unclear why Zhukovskyy was kicked out. Police log records only say they were called to the hotel after someone called 911 to report a “disturbance” related to a “male wearing a black hoody, sitting in the lobby eating food provided by the hotel.”

August 2018 — Zhukovskyy obtained his Massachusetts Class A license, or CDL.

September 2, 2018 — Zhukovskyy was stabbed by another man at Zhukovskyy’s West Springfield home, according to police records. Carlos Cuba got into the driver’s seat of Zhukovskyy’s mother’s car, waved a knife at Zhukovskyy, and stabbed his arm, creating a two-inch laceration, before chasing Zhukovskyy and a woman. They drove away and called 911. Cuba also dragged his knife along Zhukovskyy’s father’s car. Police arrested Cuba. He later pleaded guilty to charges and was sentenced to 150 days in a house of correction followed by probation, court records show.

Feb. 11, 2019 — Zhukovskyy was [arrested at a Denny’s](#) restaurant in Baytown, Texas, along Interstate 10. Police were called to the restaurant around 2 a.m. after Zhukovskyy showed strange behavior while seated at the counter, officials said. They found him carrying a crack pipe.

Feb. 18, 2019 — Zhukovskyy, while driving a tractor trailer for Westfield, Mass.-based FBI Express Inc., was stopped and cited by police on Interstate 80 in Iowa for not staying in one lane and for driving a commercial vehicle using additional equipment that decreases safety while driving, court records show. A court official said records indicate the fines from that incident were paid by FBI Express.

May 11, 2019 — In East Windsor, Conn., police were called to a Walmart parking lot to investigate a report of a man, later identified as Zhukovskyy, “revving his truck engine and jumping around outside the vehicle.” During his arrest, Zhukovskyy made “suicidal comments” and displayed “extreme behavior,” police said. Based on his performance during a field sobriety test, Zhukovskyy was arrested for allegedly operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol, records show. His lawyer in that case has said Zhukovskyy denied the charge. He refused a chemical test, Massachusetts officials said.

June 3, 2019 — Just 18 days before the New Hampshire crash, the car carrier Zhukovskyy was driving rolled over on a Texas highway, authorities said. Zhukovskyy told police in Baytown that he had overcorrected after trying to maneuver around a car that had cut him off. Police could not locate the vehicle Zhukovskyy said cut him off, Baytown police Lieutenant Steve Dorris said. The truck was carrying five cars at the time. Zhukovskyy was uninjured in the crash and was not cited by police, Dorris said. The truck he was driving was owned by FBI Express Inc., Dorris said. Zhukovskyy did not appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time, Dorris said.

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