

## Man Attempts Chemical Suicide

Stacy Gill, Zachary Plainsman-News  
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Zachary, LA – Early last Wednesday morning, Oct. 7, police responded to a suicide attempt by a 19-year-old male at the intersection of Hwy. 19 and Avenue A, said Zachary Police Chief John Herty.

Ofc. Ty Stephens responded to the call which came in at approximately 6:30 a.m., and upon his arrival at the residence, Stephens noticed a foul odor coming from the victim's vehicle and found Eddie Whitley, 19, Zachary, unresponsive and his body partially hanging outside the opened driver's door.

Zachary Fire/Rescue were immediately notified and it was determined that Whitley had attempted a 'chemical suicide' by mixing several household chemicals together which, when combined, emit a toxic and fatal gas called hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), said Fire Chief Boyce Smith.



Baton Rouge Fire Department Hazmat technician Jody Cashio worked to neutralize the chemicals used in an attempted suicide last Wednesday in Zachary. When combined, the chemicals emit a toxic and fatal gas called hydrogen sulfide.

A perimeter was set up which shut down sections of Hwy. 19 north of Church Street for most of the day, as Louisiana State Police, Baton Rouge Hazmat and Department of Environmental Quality units arrived on the scene to begin assessing and neutralizing the poisonous fumes.

A woman who lives at the residence and who had returned home early Wednesday morning, discovered Whitley in his car and proceeded to contact authorities, said Chief Herty.

There was also a note found inside the vehicle on the dashboard which warned of the toxic chemicals inside, Smith said.

The victim was taken to Lane Regional Medical Center and was listed in stable condition but was later transferred to Baton Rouge General Medical Center.

Rescue workers who responded to the scene and were also exposed to the fumes were examined by hospital officials, said Smith.

Only a few cases of chemical suicides have been reported in the United States with most of the known cases found in Japan.

Source: <http://www.zacharytoday.com/content/man-attempts-chemical-suicide-0>