

Girl, 14, seriously injured in 1 of 4 crashes near I-5 overpass

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

A fourteen-year-old girl sustained life threatening head injuries in an early morning vehicle crash on Portland Road NE on the Interstate-5 overpass when the child's mother lost control of her SUV on an icy overpass causing it to slide into oncoming traffic where it was struck by a pickup, Salem police reported.

Alma Garcia-Martinez was not wearing a seatbelt as a rear-seat passenger in a 2003 Ford Explorer traveling north on Portland Road about 6:30 a.m. Her mother's SUV was struck by a southbound 1993 Toyota pickup driven Jose Martinez, 53, after it crossed into the oncoming lane of traffic. The child sustained what police described as life-threatening head injuries when she was thrown from her seat into the rear portion of the vehicle. She was transported by ambulance to Salem Hospital and was later flown by helicopter to Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital.

The girl's mother and brother, Alma Rosa Olivares-Martinez and her 15-year-old son, were both transported to Salem Hospital with minor injuries and were later released, police said.

The driver of the second vehicle, Jose Martinez, was also transported to Salem Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

No citations have been issued thus far in this investigation, the news release stated This was the first of four accidents that occurred all within minutes near the same location. There were no serious injuries in any of the other accidents, but the roadway remained closed for several hours while the vehicles were removed and the accidents investigated.

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