

Five injured in Hwy. 20E rollover crash

by Cheryl McDermott

Two people were seriously injured and four others suffered less severe injuries in a rollover crash Tuesday afternoon on icy Highway 20E about 35 miles southeast of Bend, Oregon, deputies reported.

Deschutes County Sheriff's Sgt. Ronny Dozier and Deputy Kevin Turpen said that traveling too fast for road conditions likely contributed to the accident, although the investigation is continuing.

Deputies, Oregon State Police troopers, Bend Fire paramedics and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) personnel all responded to the scene on Highway 20E near milepost 34 about 3:30 p.m. on January 29, Dozier and Turpen reported.

A Ford Econoline van driven by Kahlid Yasin, a 41-year old California resident, left the icy roadway as it traveled west and rolled over "at least once", the deputies said.

Two passengers were seriously injured. One was flown by Airlife helicopter to St. Charles Medical

Center (SCMC) in Bend, and another was transported by ground ambulance.

Five others including Yasin suffered minor injuries and were taken to SCMC by private vehicles, Dozier and Turpen said. Deputies did not release the names of the passengers.

The highway was closed for nearly an hour before ODOT reopened it to traffic.

“Be aware of adverse road conditions, slow down and drive safely,” the deputies reminded.

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