

Culver Man Seriously Injured in Hwy. 97 Crash with Semi-Truck

by Cheryl McDermott

A Culver-area man was seriously injured Sunday afternoon in a two-vehicle crash on Highway 97 south of Madras when his car was hit after he pulled out in front of a Kenworth semi-truck and trailer, said police.

John Meeker, 74, was stopped at an eastbound stop sign on southwest Iris Street at the intersection with Highway 97 about 1:20 p.m. November 19 before he pulled out into the path of a northbound 2006 Kenworth truck pulling a semi-trailer. The 2004 Chevrolet Cavalier was struck in the right rear, spun around, left the highway, and came to rest near the northeast corner of the intersection. The Kenworth was able to safely come to a stop on the highway shoulder past the intersection.

According to a news release issued by Oregon State Police (OSP), Meeker, who was using safety restraints, was trapped in his car following the crash. He was extricated from the vehicle by Jefferson County Fire Department personnel and transported by ambulance to St. Charles Medical Center in Redmond.

The Kenworth's driver, 37-year old Adam Carpenter of Bend, was not injured. His three children - ages nine, 11, and 16 - and passengers in the vehicle, were also uninjured.

Following an investigation by OSP troopers from Madras and Bend, assisted by Jefferson County Sheriff's deputies, Meeker was cited for failing to obey a traffic control device.

Oregon Department of Transportation personnel kept the highway open during the crash investigation and cleanup.

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