

Teen driver killed, 2 injured in Highway 101 head-on crash

by Cheryl McDermott

A teenage driver from Beaver, Oregon was killed and two others injured Saturday night when she lost control of her station wagon on Highway 101 about 20 miles south of Tillamook and crashed head-on with an SUV, troopers reported.

17-year-old Elizabeth Bryson was pronounced dead at the scene near milepost 84 about 9 p.m. on February 2, Oregon State Police (OSP) said.

Preliminary investigation suggests that Bryson lost control of her 1995 Saturn was traveling south on Highway 101 and was coming out of a left curve when she crossed the centerline and collided with a 1999 Ford Explorer. Excessive speed may have contributed to the crash, troopers said.

The SUV's driver, Michael Franklin, 25, of Corvallis, was not injured. His passenger, 21-year old Andrea Gomez, also of Corvallis, suffered serious injuries and was transported to Tillamook General Hospital. A two-month-old boy restrained in a child safety seat was unharmed, OSP reported in a news release.

OSP troopers from Tillamook and Astoria Command Offices are continuing the investigation.

Oregon Department of Transportation personnel closed the highway to traffic for about 4 ½ hours during emergency response and accident investigation.

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