

Two badly injured in icy Hwy. 140W head-on collision

by Cheryl McDermott

LAKE OF THE WOODS, Ore. -- Two drivers were seriously injured late Thursday afternoon when their SUVs crashed nearly head-on after one man lost control on an icy spot of Highway 140W about 30 miles west of Klamath Falls, police reported.

Troopers report excessive speed may have contributed to a head-on collision on Highway 140W near Lake of the Woods Thursday afternoon. Both drivers received reportedly serious injuries. - OSP photo
Oregon State Police (OSP) Sgt. Robert Fenner said that Jeremiah Paladino, a 30-year old Medford resident, was traveling west on the highway near milepost 36 and Lake of the Woods about 5:20 p.m. when his 2000 Toyota 4-Runner hit an icy patch and slid into the oncoming lane of traffic.

Paladino's SUV collided with a Ford Explorer driven by Steven G. Sayre, 41, of Klamath Falls.

Sayre was transported by ground ambulance to Great Meadow Snow Park, then was transferred to a Mercy Flights helicopter and flown to Providence Medical Center in Medford, Fenner said.

Paladino was taken by ambulance to Sky Lakes Medical Center in Klamath Falls with reportedly serious injuries.

Both men were wearing safety belts, Sgt. Fenner said. While the investigation is continuing to determine the cause of the crash, troopers suspect excessive speed may have been a primary contributing factor.

The eastbound lane of Highway 140W was closed for about two hours before Oregon Department of Transportation personnel reopened it to traffic, OSP said.

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