

Semi Driver Hits Power Pole, Leads Police on Chase

by Richard Burton

The driver of a semi-truck pulling a 53-foot trailer, allegedly under the influence of drugs, crashed into a utility pole cutting off power to an east Bend home, then sped away, leading police on a chase and nearly colliding head-on with several vehicles when she turned into oncoming traffic.

The incident began shortly after 10 p.m. Wednesday, December 6, when sheriff's deputies, assisted by Bend Police, responded to a report of an accident at 61371 Ward Road in east Bend.

According to Sgt. Gary Cima with the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, the operator apparently drove the semi, a 2003 Freightliner pulling a 53-foot trailer, into the driveway of the property, and when exiting slammed into a power pole - instantly cutting off power to the residence.

The driver ignored the police car's emergency lights and sirens and sped off, driving west on Stevens Road, Sgt. Cima wrote in a news release. Reaching 27th Street, she turned south and sped off again, turning into oncoming traffic and nearly colliding head-on with oncoming vehicles.

The semi came to an abrupt stop at the intersection of 27th Street and Ferguson Road, and the driver - identified as Teresa Horney, a 36-year old resident of North Las Vegas, Nevada -- was taken into custody, said the sergeant.

Horney was lodged in the Deshutes County Jail on \$25,000 bail, pending arraignment on various charges including driving under the influence (drugs), possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), failing to perform the duties of a driver involved in a motor vehicle accident, first-degree criminal mischief, recklessly endangering another person, and numerous traffic violations.

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