

Bend woman seriously injured in Santiam Pass collision

by Cheryl McDermott

A 60-year old Bend woman was seriously injured and transported to the hospital by helicopter after she was trapped in her car when it was hit head-on by an SUV that lost control on icy Highway 22 on Santiam Pass late Saturday morning, police reported.

Lona Marie Hale's car (above) was hit head-on by an out-of-control SUV on icy Santiam Pass. Ronald Boen's SUV stopped in the middle of the road after impact, and paramedics attend to the injured (below). OSP photos. Oregon State Police (OSP) Trooper Gary Martin said that Ronald Boen, 21, of Silverton, apparently lost control of his sports utility vehicle as he traveled east near milepost 81 about 11 a.m., February 23. The SUV crashed head-on into the passenger car driven by Lona Marie Hale of Bend.

Hale, trapped in her car, was extricated by emergency personnel and flown by air-ambulance to St. Charles Medical Center (SCMC) in Bend with reportedly serious injuries, OSP reported.

Boen received what Trooper Martin described as non-life threatening injuries and was transported by ground ambulance to SCMC.

Both drivers were wearing safety restraints, and their vehicles' airbags deployed, OSP said. The highway was closed for two hours during emergency response and on-scene crash investigation.

Troopers with the Bend Area Command office are continuing the investigation.

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