

Six injured in multi-vehicle crash near Chemult

by Cheryl McDermott

Six people were injured Saturday morning in a crash on icy Highway 97 about 13 miles south of Chemult, Oregon, when an out-of-control car spun into the path of a semi-truck and trailer, which then jack-knifed and crashed into another semi-truck, police reported.

All five occupants of the car were injured, as was the driver of one of the two semi-trucks involved in a crash on Highway 97 south of Chemult, Oregon, on Sat. - OSP photo Oregon State Police (OSP) Trooper Joe Smith said that Edith Juarez, 33, of Los Angeles, was driving north on Highway 97 near milepost 217 when she lost control of her Chrysler 300 sedan about 9:15 a.m., March 1.

Juarez's vehicle crossed the centerline into the path of an oncoming semi-truck and trailer driven by 47-year old Richard Morss of Burlington, Iowa, Trooper Smith said. Morss' truck hit the rear of the Chrysler, shearing off the trunk, then jack-knifed across both lanes of traffic. It then crashed into Myles Standridge, Jr.'s semi-truck. Standridge is a 34-year old from Montclair, California.

All five occupants of the car received what Trooper Smith described as non-life threatening injuries, and were transported by ambulance to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, Oregon. They were identified as the driver, Edith Juarez; Jaqueline Pimentez, 29; Moises Pimentez, 35; Pedro Lopez, 50; and Guadalupe Lopez, 49 — all of Los Angeles.

Morss was transported by ambulance to Sky Lakes Medical Center in Klamath Falls with a —minor— injury. An unidentified 41-year old female passenger in his truck was not injured, a news release stated.

Standrige also escaped unharmed.

“All involved people were using safety restraints,” Trooper Smith said, crediting their use by preventing more serious injury to the occupants of the Chrysler.

Highway 97 was closed for about three hours, and the investigation is ongoing, OSP said.

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