Six injured in school bus crash

by Cheryl McDermott

SALEM, Ore. -- Four students, a school bus driver, and the driver of the pickup that apparently crashed into the back of the Williamette Valley Christian School bus as it prepared to turn left an a northeast Salem intersection were injured Wednesday morning and sent to the hospital with injuries ranging from minor to serious but non life-threatening. The bus struck another car following impact, but that driver was not hurt, deputies reported.

Four children, a school bus driver, and the operator of the pickup shown above were injured in a crash at a Salem, Oreon intersection Wednesday morning - MCSO photo According to a Marion County Sheriffâ€™s Office news release, deputies and paramedics with Marion County Fire District # 1 responded to Cordon Road NE and Sunnyview Road NE in Salem about 7:30 a.m.

Preliminary investigation shows that, for an unknown reason, a 1969 Chevrolet pickup driven by 71-year old Salem resident, Cecil Todd, struck the small bus as it was preparing to turn left onto Cordon Road NE. The bus then spun around and hit a 1999 Buick Park Avenue, and both of those vehicles came to rest in a field beside the road.

Todd received what deputies described as serious but non-life threatening injuries. Jannice Williamson, 45, was identified as the bus driver. She and four children were transported to the hospital for observation or treatment of minor injuries, the news release stated. The injured students included three girls, 16, 15, and 15, and a 12-year-old boy.

The intersection was closed to traffic for two hours, and the crash remains under investigation, deputies said.

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