

Portland teen injured in stolen car crash

by Cheryl McDermott

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Ore. — A 17-year-old Portland girl who absconded from the Oregon Youth Authority was injured Sunday morning when she crashed and rolled a reportedly stolen vehicle as she attempted to flee from pursuing deputies.

Highway 217 northbound on-ramp to Highway 26 eastbound was closed for about 1 1/2 hours to complete the investigation and remove the debris - WCSO photo According to a Washington County Sheriff's Office news release, Phillicia Johnsen of northwest Portland failed to stop for deputies on Highway 217, sped away, and crashed on the on-ramp leading to eastbound Highway 26. The vehicle, a red Acura reported stolen ten minutes prior to the attempted stop, drove off the side of the road and up an embankment before crashing into a concrete retaining wall. The car rolled and landed upside down on the ramp, deputies said.

Johnsen, who received non-life threatening injuries, was transported to St. Vincent's hospital. She gave false information to deputies concerning her identity, they reported, but was eventually identified.

Transferred back to the custody of Youth Authority while at the hospital, Johnsen was charged with auto theft, identity theft, felony elude, felony warrant for abscond, felony warrant for a prior auto theft, reckless driving, second-degree criminal mischief, unlawful entry into a motor vehicle, and a misdemeanor charge for driving with a suspended license.

Portland teen injured in stolen car crash by Cheryl McDermott