

Police upset with seat belt ignorance

by UPI

TORONTO -- Four Toronto-area men were hospitalized in critical condition Monday after a speeding van flipped and ejected them onto the highway, police said. Three other men in the van who were wearing seatbelts sustained only minor injuries in the early Sunday crash on Highway 401, Canada's busiest highway. Ontario Provincial Police Constable Dave Woodford told the Globe and Mail emergency responders were "frustrated and upset" by the extent of the injuries the men without seatbelts sustained. Alcohol was not involved, but the 20-year-old driver was arrested and charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, Woodford said. Dr. Louis Francescutti, a University of Alberta injury researcher and an emergency physician, told the newspaper compliance with seat belt laws needed more rigorous enforcement. He suggested Canadians who refuse to buckle up either get fined as much as \$1,000 or by having to pay hospital bills if they are injured in a collision.

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