

Driver cited in 3-vehicle crash on icy Hwy. 97

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

BEND, Ore. — Deputies cited the driver of an SUV that crossed into the oncoming lane of icy Highway 97 south of Bend during a snow storm late Thursday morning, crashing into two other vehicles including a semi tractor-truck, and closing the highway for more than an hour.

No injuries were reported, but 34-year old Juan Diaz of Wapato, Washington received a ticket for failing to drive within his lane of travel, Deschutes County Sheriff's Sgt. Bryan Husband reported in a news release.

Diaz had been driving north on Highway 97 near milepost 156 shortly after 11 a.m., March 5, in a 2001 Ford Explorer when he lost control and struck a 2006 GMC box truck and a 2000 Kenworth semi-tractor truck, the sergeant said.

Neither Diaz, his passenger (Javier Tejada, 32, of Westley, California), the driver of the GMC (Curtis Lofton, 45, of Redmond, Oregon), or the driver of the Kenworth (Christopher Shafer, 35, of Denison, Texas) were injured, the news release stated.

All three vehicles had to be towed from the scene with extensive damage, and the highway was closed between South Century Drive and Vandeventer Road for more than an hour, Husband said.

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