

Four killed in Hwy. 58 crash near Oakridge

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

OAKRIDGE, Ore. — Four adults, two men and two women, were killed early this morning when their SUV crossed the oncoming lane of Highway 58 about five miles east of Oakridge, went off the road and became airborne when it rolled down an embankment and crashed into a large tree, crushing the passenger compartment, police reported.

The small SUV went airborne when it rolled down an embankment and crashed into a large cedar tree (above). An OSP trooper looks down upon the wreckage from Highway 58 (below). -- OSP photos

The identities of the deceased are being withheld pending notification of family members, Oregon State Police (OSP) troopers said in a news release.

The crashed SUV, only described as a small sport utility vehicle, was spotted about 6 a.m., March 23, by a commercial truck driver traveling the stretch of highway near milepost 41.

Originally Oakridge Fire and Police personnel reported there were three fatalities, but when OSP troopers arrived and began the investigation, a fourth victim was found in the wreckage, police said.

Troopers said there were some icy spots in the general area, but it is not yet known if the ice contributed to the crash.

Troopers, Oregon Department of Transportation personnel and emergency responders are still on scene and the investigation is continuing. More details will be reported as they become available.

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