

Two children seriously injured in crash near Canby

by Cheryl McDermott

Two girls, ages four and five, were seriously injured in a two-vehicle crash near Canby this morning, Oregon State Police reported. The children were passengers in a van that lost control on the icy highway, slid broadside into oncoming traffic, and was struck by a pickup towing a horse trailer.

Oregon State Police investigated the accident which injured two children on Hwy. 170 and Alder Creek Lane, about two miles south of Canby. All photos provided by CFD. The children, girls ages four and five, were properly restrained in child-seats in the van's middle bench seat. Reach air ambulance landed at Ackerman School and transported one of the girls to Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Shortly before 9 a.m. January 20, troopers and emergency personnel with the Canby Fire District (CFD) responded to the report of a two-vehicle accident with injuries near the intersection of Highway 170 and Alder Creek Lane, about two miles south of Canby.

Gina Lannin, 39, of Canby was eastbound and negotiating a slight left-hand curve of the highway when she lost control of her 2000 Dodge Caravan on an icy section of the two-lane highway, troopers said. "This location has been known to be problematic in icy conditions," CFD Division Chief Troy Buzalsky added.

Lannin's van slid broadside into the westbound lane and was hit on the passenger-side by a 2004 Ford F350 pickup towing a horse trailer, Oregon State Police (OSP) reported.

Jenevive Lannin, the 5-year-old daughter of the woman driving the van, and Chanelle Myers, 4, were seated in child safety-seats in the middle passenger bench. OSP reported Jenevive Lannin was seriously injured in the crash, and said Myers' injuries appeared to be non-life threatening.

CFD requested helicopter transportation, said Division Chief Buzalsky, but Portland-based Life Flight

wasnâ€™t available and Reach air ambulance from Corvallis was called as a backup. â€œAlthough they have a slightly longer response time, they are still a valuable community resource, saving critical minutes in overall scene-to-hospital time,â€• Buzalsky added. The helicopter landed at Ackerman School and transported Myers to Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Lannin was taken to the same hospital by American Medical Response ground ambulance.

OSP reported both drivers were wearing safety restraints, and said the airbags in each vehicle deployed. Neither of the drivers -- Gina Lannin or 28-year old Kimberly Hayes of Molalla -- were injured in the crash. The horse, trailered in the pickup, was also uninjured.

Firefighters praise the assistance of two citizens traveling in the area who helped at the scene, off-duty Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue firefighter Clay Bagerly and local veterinarian Michael â€œDocâ€• Harms. Both men removed the victims from the van, and rendered aid.

"When we arrived Clay had already removed the one girl from the wheel well and was tending to her," said Paramedic Bob Pulford. "We were very short handed and Clay was very helpful -- assisting us while we were attempting to stabilize our patient."

Oregon State Police troopers from the Portland Area Command office are continuing the investigation.

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