

Two injured in Powell Butte Hwy. crash

by Cheryl McDermott

A driver who failed to stop her SUV behind a line of waiting vehicles in a construction zone on Powell Butte Highway rear-ended a pickup, sending both drivers to the hospital yesterday morning, deputies reported.

Crook County Sheriff's deputies were called to the scene of the accident at the north end of a construction zone near milepost 5 of Powell Butte Highway about 8:40 a.m., Sgt. Travis Jurgens said.

An investigation determined that 26-year old Prineville resident Lisa Escalante "wasn't paying attention" when she failed to stop for the traffic that was waiting to go through the construction area, said the sergeant.

Escalante's 1997 Jeep Cherokee rear-ended a 2000 Chevy 2500 pickup driven by Penny Chapman-Phelps, 50, of Prineville. Both women were injured and transported to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend.

"The construction zone was clearly marked and had flaggers on both ends," Sgt. Jurgens said, adding that no citations have yet been issued in connection with the ongoing investigation.

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