Five injured in Grants Pass Parkway, I-5 collision

by Cheryl McDermott

Five California residents were injured, two seriously, in a crash involving two sport utility vehicles near Interstate-5 in Grants Pass on Saturday afternoon. Troopers are investigating to determine whether marijuana found in one of the vehicles contributed to the collision.

The driver and one passenger of this vehicle (above) were seriously injured in the crash. The other two occupants received minor injuries. OSP photos.

One ounce of marijuana was allegedly found in Brian Findlayâ€™s vehicle (above). Troopers are investigating to determine if it contributed to the crash.

Oregon State Police (OSP) reported that 23-year old Brian Christopher Findlay of Crescent city, California was northbound on the Grants Pass Parkway, also known as the Highway 199 spur road) about 4:05 p.m. February 24 when the accident occurred.

Findlayâ€™s 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer was traveling in the right lane as it approached the Interstate-5 interchange near milepost 55, then swerved into the left lane at what witnesses described as a high rate of speed, troopers said.

Findlay made a sharp left turn into the oncoming lane of traffic that was exiting the freeway from the northbound off-ramp, troopers said, then collided with a 2002 GMC Yukon.

The driver of the Yukon, 42-year old Catherine Marques, and her right-front passenger Kristina Karlene Marques, 18, were seriously injured in the crash and were transported to Three Rivers Community Hospital. Two other passengers, Kassi Kailene Marques, 22, and Tiffany Kristine Glossop, 19, were taken to the hospital where they were treated for minor injuries and released. All of the occupants in the Yukon were residents of Crescent City, also, troopers reported.

Findlay was also transported to the hospital for treatment of minor injuries, and later released.

About one ounce of marijuana was allegedly found in Findlayâ€™s Trailblazer, and OSP troopers from Grants Pass are continuing the investigation to determine if it was a contributing factor in the crash. Upon completion of the investigation, troopers said, the case will be forwarded to the Josephine County District Attorney's Office for consideration of charges.

OSP were assisted at the scene by the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, American Medical Response personnel, and Caveman Towing. Oregon Department of Transportation diverted traffic from the interchange during the investigation.

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