

Corzine improves as crash inquiry deepens

by UPI

CAMDEN, N.J. - New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine showed signs of improvement in his recovery from an April 12 vehicle crash that has become the focus of a major inquiry.

The Newark (N.J.) Star-Ledger said Corzine took a positive step forward in his recovery on Sunday by eating solid food for the first time since the accident. Corzine is being treated at the Cooper University Hospital in Camden, N.J. Doctors said the governor was in critical but stable condition.

Meanwhile, Corzine's state police driver at the time of the accident has become the focus of an inquiry as allegations of exhaustion surfaced, the Gannett News Service reported.

New Jersey Trooper Robert Rasinski reportedly drove nearly 340 miles before the crash on the Garden State Parkway and had been on duty for more than 12 hours.

A police source also alleged that the officer had received e-mails on his phone and that distraction likely played a role in the crash, the Philadelphia Inquirer said.

State officials have dismissed such allegations, saying Rasinski's training prepared him to deal with exhaustion, reports said.

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