

Driver injured in I-5 truck rollover near Eugene

by Cheryl McDermott

A commercial truck driver was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries after he hit a concrete barrier and overturned, dumping his load of lumber in a crash that closed all southbound lanes of Interstate 5 between Coburg and Eugene for about 2.5 hours early this morning, police reported. Oregon State Police (OSP) troopers were called from their homes to respond to the accident on I-5 near milepost 198 on the McKenzie River bridge between Eugene and Coburg about 3:45 a.m., June 7.

OSP investigators said that a commercial truck towing a trailer full of lumber was driving "erratically" as it entered a construction bridge work zone, then crashed into a concrete barrier and overturned.

The truck, driven by 46-year old Darren Robert Zimmer of Clovis, California, came to rest blocking both southbound lanes of traffic. The trailer, police said, flipped on its side and spilled its load of lumber.

Zimmer was transported by Coburg Fire medics to Sacred Heart Hospital with what were described as "non-life threatening" injuries.

OSP troopers with the Springfield Area Command office are continuing the investigation into the crash, which may have been caused by driver fatigue. No citations have yet been issued.

Oregon Department of Transportation personnel reopened the southbound lanes to traffic about 6:30 a.m.

Driver injured in I-5 truck rollover near Eugene by Cheryl McDermott