

Five injured in five-car crash, drunk driver jailed

by Cheryl McDermott

A 43-year old Gresham man was arrested for drunk driving and other related charges following a crash in Gresham Tuesday afternoon when he rear-ended another car with his delivery truck and trailer, setting in motion a chain reaction of collisions that ultimately involved five vehicles and sent five people to the hospital.

Ronald Lane Caldwell -GPD photo Gresham Police reported that Ronald Lane Caldwell, whom witnesses said was driving erratically, was traveling south on Kane Road toward Division in Gresham about 4 p.m. when he drove into the rear of another vehicle. The chain reaction of crashes that followed involved a total of five vehicles, including Caldwell's.

A 21-year old Sandy man, an occupant of one of the vehicles involved, was flown by Life Flight to Oregon Health Sciences University with what police described as "serious head injuries". His name was withheld pending notification of family members.

Three other unidentified victims were transported by ambulance to Emanuel Hospital, the news release said. Their conditions are unknown.

Caldwell was also transported to the hospital with minor injuries, and then lodged in the Multnomah County Jail. He faces multiple charges including driving under the influence of intoxicants, several counts of reckless endangerment, second- and third-degree assault, and multiple counts of second-degree criminal mischief.

The Vehicle Crimes Team (VCT) is conducting the investigation.

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