Bend man injured in 3-vehicle crash on Highway 20

by Cheryl McDermott

A 69-year old Bend man had to be extricated from his vehicle by rescue personnel before he was transported to the hospital with unknown injuries following a three-vehicle accident on Highway 20 West Monday afternoon, deputies reported.

A three-vehicle crash on Highway 20 at the intersection with Dayton Road sent a 69-year old Bend man to the hospital - DCSO photos Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s deputies, Oregon State Police (OSP) troopers, Bend Fire & Rescue medics, and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) personnel responded to the accident scene at the intersection of Highway 20 West and Dayton Road in the Tumalo area about 3:20 p.m., July 16.

According to Sheriffâ€™s deputy Lieutenant Shane Nelson, Matilde Hernandez, 33, of Bend was traveling east on Highway 20 in a 2003 Dodge Dakota pickup and apparently didnâ€™t notice a vehicle stopped in the roadway ahead of her that was waiting to turn onto Dayton Road.

When Hernandez attempted to avoid colliding with the 2003 Subaru Outback in front of her, she crossed into the oncoming lane of traffic but still sideswiped the Subaru, Nelson said. Her vehicle then crashed into an oncoming 1993 Mercury Cougar driven by 69-year old Robert Rice of Bend.

Hernandezâ€™s pickup came to rest facing east in the westbound lane. The Subaru stopped on the westbound shoulder at the intersection, also facing east; and the Mercury ended up off the road on the north shoulder, Nelson said.

Rice was extricated from his vehicle and transported to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, the lieutenant reported. No other injuries were reported, including Hernandez; her 19-year old passenger Adela Velasquez Rivera; the driver of the Subaru, Nancy Has, 54, of Bend; or Hasâ€™ passenger, Sharon Hatrak, 44, of Portland.

â€œAlcohol was not a factor in this crash,â€• said Nelson. Traffic was limited to one lane during scene investigation and cleanup, and re-opened after more than an hour.

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