

Both drivers cited or arrested in semi vs. pickup crash

by Cheryl McDermott

Deputies on Friday released the names of two drivers involved in a Thursday night crash between a pickup and a semi-truck pulling a 48-foot trailer; one whom was cited with careless driving, and the other flown to the hospital by helicopter and arrested for alleged drunk driving.

According to a news release prepared by Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Vance Lawrence and Deputy Kevin Turpen, about 10 p.m., September 13, deputies, Bend Fire Department and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) personnel responded to a report of a two-vehicle crash where one driver was trapped inside his pickup.

Arriving at the scene near Highway 20 West and the Old Bend-Redmond Highway, Bend Fire personnel worked to free the entrapped driver of a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado pickup who was then flown by AirLife helicopter to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend. The injured driver was identified as 46-year old Bend resident Bradley Mitchell.

Mitchell was arrested for driving under the influence of intoxicants, cited and released, Lawrence and Turpen said. "Alcohol was a factor in this crash," they wrote.

An investigation determined that a 1996 Freightliner semi pulling a 48-foot trailer was traveling west on Highway 20 when the driver, 45-year old Silviu Bucea of Portland, began to make a legal u-turn on the highway. The eastbound pickup struck the trailer, causing extensive damage to the Chevy, the deputies said.

Bucea was also cited in the crash, Lawrence and Turpen said. He was charged with careless driving.

Highway 20 was closed for three hours during the investigation.

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