

Brian Sandoval
Governor



March 1, 2011

Gail Powell
Public Information Officer
Nevada Department of Public Safety
gpowell@dps.state.nv.us
775-687-0325

Trooper Chuck Allen
Public Information Officer
NHP-Northern Command
(775) 230-4921
callen@dps.state.nv.us

Media Release

3 Teenagers Injured in Fallon Accident

This morning at approximately 7:41 am, troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to an automobile collision involving an occupied school bus on US Highway 50 near River Village Drive, just west of the Fallon city limits. The accident took place in the right eastbound lane of the four-lane highway where the posted speed limit is 55 miles per hour with the following details learned so far.

Three high school-aged teenagers were traveling eastbound in a silver Mazda 4-door sedan approaching River Village Drive where a school bus had stopped to pick up students. The bus was stopped with its red flashing lights activated and both articulating stop signs deployed.

The Mazda was driven by a female and she had a male passenger in the back seat, believed to be her brother, and a female passenger riding in the front seat, believed to be a family friend or classmate. The driver was wearing a seat belt; however, both passengers were unrestrained.

For reasons still to be determined, the driver of the Mazda failed to reduce her vehicle's speed and subsequently slammed into the rear of the stopped bus. Evidence at the scene indicated very little braking was applied prior to the impact. The sedan was wedged under the rear portion of the bus resulting in the occupants to be extricated and assisted from the car. The young female driver was airlifted from the scene to Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno while the other two were transported to Banner Churchill Community Hospital in Fallon by ground ambulance.

A second helicopter was dispatched to the Fallon hospital a short time later to transport the male passenger to Renown. The latest information regarding their conditions is the male passenger has life-threatening injuries and both females sustained moderate injuries.

As for the bus driver and all 34 students on the bus, they were initially medically screened at the scene, transported onto a second bus and taken to the parking lot of E.C. Best Elementary School, which is across the street the hospital in Fallon. Only 3 students reported any type of injuries from the collision which were believed to be claimed or very minor in nature.

Both eastbound lanes were closed near the accident scene and Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) personnel assisted us with diverting eastbound traffic into the center turn lane and around the crash scene. Both lanes were reopened at approximately 10:12 am.

Per our crash investigation protocol involving commercial motor vehicles, there was a post-collision inspection of the bus completed by one of the inspectors assigned to the NHP-Northern Command's commercial motor vehicle enforcement section.

The Major Accident Investigation Team (M.A.I.T.) will be conducting the investigation and witnesses, or anyone with additional information, is encouraged to call Trooper Eric Gallagher at (775) 689-4661 regarding case # NHP-201102280367.

