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Governor



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Media Release

Two Injured in Seven-Vehicle Accident that Closed Westbound I-80 near Sparks

This morning at approximately 4:53 am, troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a multiple-vehicle accident on westbound Interstate 80 just east of Sparks, between the Lockwood and Vista Blvd interchanges. Although the accident is still under investigation, seven vehicles were involved and two people were injured when the following chain of events happened.

A Pleasant Hill, California, woman was driving her 2006 Chevrolet 4-door sedan westbound on the Interstate, when for reasons still to be determined; she lost control of her vehicle causing it to rollover. 57-year-old Faye Campbell was ejected from her vehicle as it rolled and she landed near the inside shoulder adjacent to eastbound travel lanes. She suffered a visible head injury.

Shortly after she was ejected, six more vehicles were involved in this event; four of them struck the disabled sedan while the other two attempted to avoid striking the flipped over car and subsequently hit the adjacent guardrail or cement barrier wall. The vehicles involved in the chain of events included an eighteen-wheeled truck and tanker trailer, a truck-tractor, two pickups, two sedans and one SUV. One of the other involved motorists sustained a lower extremity injury. Her name is Cathy Ann McPherson, 50, of Fallon. The two injured women were transported by ground ambulance to Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno.

According to one motorist involved in the collision, the sedan was still spinning on its top near the left lane when his big rig struck it. Although one of the involved motorists stated the highway was not icy or snow covered at the time of the event, there was reduced visibility due to dense fog and the accident area was just immediately west of a slight curve or bend in the roadway which collectively would obscure other motorists from possibly seeing, or avoiding the accident scene.

At 10:30 am this morning, Cathy McPherson was in the process of being released from the hospital while Faye Campbell was listed in fair condition. Both westbound travel lanes were completely blocked because of the multiple-vehicle accident essentially stalling all westbound traffic. The scene was cleared and both westbound lanes re-opened at 8:22 am.

Witnesses to the accident are encouraged to call NHP Trooper Tom Brooks at (775) 688-2500 ext 4 during normal business hours or the Department of Public Safety-Communications Center at (775) 687-0400 regarding case # NHP-1101070079.

As a safety reminder to all motorists, especially when there is reduced visibility due to dense and freezing fog, motorists need to adjust their driving habits by reducing their vehicle's speed and create a safer and greater following distance with other vehicles.

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