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Media Release

Driver of Subaru Crashes into Active Construction Zone on Interstate 80 in Sparks

On Monday, December 10, 2012 at approximately 11:36 am, troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a vehicle crash on Interstate 80, just east of the Pyramid Way interchange in Sparks. The details of the event learned so far indicate a green 1994 Subaru 2-door coupe was traveling east on the freeway at a very high rate of speed. Witnesses told troopers the vehicle was passing other motorists by utilizing the left or inside shoulder just prior to the actual crash. Two of the witnesses estimated the speed of the car to be in excess of 100 miles per hour.

The sedan entered an active roadway construction zone where workers were making some repairs to the center concrete barrier which separates the east and west bound lanes of the freeway. On both sides of the interstate where the workers were present, along the fog line which separates the left lane from the inside shoulder, were an extended section of temporary concrete barriers to provide protection from the constant flow of traffic passing by.

The driver of the Subaru, 19-year-old Ateeq Paul, and his passenger and brother, 24-year-old Suneet Paul, both from Sparks, entered into the work zone area at a very high rate of speed. Their sedan managed to travel between an area where a truck and trailer were parked and the temporary concrete barrier separating the shoulder and the left eastbound travel lane. The right side of their sedan pushed some of the sections of the barrier out of alignment while the left side of their sedan peeled back the fender of the utility trailer and scraped or side-swiped the right side of the truck.

The vehicle continued until it struck the rear portion of another parked flatbed truck and a construction worker before coming to a stop. 24-year-old Cameron Owens of Reno, whose back was toward the approaching sedan, never saw or heard the vehicle approaching. After being struck by the sedan, he only sustained a lower extremity fracture despite the dynamics of the crash.

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Both Paul brothers had to be extricated from their vehicle by Sparks Fire Department personnel. They were transported to Renown Regional Medical Center by ground ambulance. Ateeq has very serious to critical injuries while the elder brother has serious injuries. Troopers are at the hospital this afternoon to ascertain if any type of impairment was a contributing factor to this crash.

Trooper Scott Morron of the Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) is investigating this crash. Witnesses, or anyone with additional information, are encouraged to contact him via the Department of Public Safety-Communications Center at (775) 687-0400 regarding case number NHP-121208462.



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