



Northwest Regional Police Department

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Samuel H. Gatchell III - Chief of Police

News Release

Date: December 31, 2008

The Northwest Lancaster County Regional Police are continuing their investigations of two traffic related accidents.

At approximately 1:15 AM on December 30, 2008, Officer Kenneth Neidinger responded to a report of a vehicle accident in the 1200 block of Turnpike Rd. in West Donegal Township. On his arrival he found a 2002 Ford van with extensive damage off the roadway and into a ditch. The driver of the van, Henry T. Smeltzer III M/44 YOA of Elizabethtown was trapped in the vehicle.

The Elizabethtown Fire Department extricated Smeltzer from the vehicle and he was transported to the Hershey Medical Center by the Northwest Medical Services Ambulance. He was treated and released.

Shortly before 4:30 PM on December 30, 2008, officers from the Northwest Regional Police Department responded to a report of a vehicle accident on Route 283 near Snyder Rd. in Mount Joy Township. It was reported that two individuals were ejected from the vehicle.

On the officers' arrival, they found a VW sedan with severe damage on the median. The two occupants of the VW are 17 YOA females from the Harrisburg area. It appeared that the VW was traveling in the passing lane of Route 283 (E) and for unknown reasons left the roadway onto the median strip. Once on the median the car rolled before coming to rest a considerable distance from where it left the roadway.

The two female occupants were treated at the scene by personnel from the Northwest Emergency Medical Services and the Susquehanna Valley Emergency

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Medical Services. They were transported to the trauma unit at the Hershey Medical Center where they were admitted in stable condition.

The investigation has determined that the occupants were not wearing seat belts at the time of the accident.

In addition to the medical services, the Northwest Regional Police were assisted by the Rheems and Elizabethtown Fire Companies. Due to the accident, Route 283(E) was limited to one traffic lane causing an extensive traffic back up during the Tuesday afternoon rush hour.

The Northwest Regional Police are continuing their investigations to determine why both drivers lost control of their vehicle. They ask that anyone with information regarding the accidents contact them at 717-367-8481.

