



MIKE LUKAS
Sheriff

OFFICE OF SHERIFF • PORTAGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER • 1500 STRONGS AVE., STEVENS POINT, WI 54481 • 715-346-1400 • FAX 715-346-1591

News Release

Contact: Chief Deputy Daniel Kontos
Phone: (715) 346-1400
Authorized: Chief Deputy Daniel Kontos

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Follow-up on Traffic Crash with Injuries US Highway 10, Town of Carson – August 5, 2017

On Saturday, August 5th, 2017, at approximately 2:10 PM, the Portage County Sheriff's Office Communications Center received a report of a multi-vehicle traffic crash on US Highway 10 near County Highway G in the Town of Carson. Upon arrival, deputies found two individuals had been involved in the crash and required immediate medical attention.

A subsequent investigation of the incident revealed that a westbound pick-up truck and trailer, driven by 75 year old William Porter from Vesper, was traveling west on US Highway 10. The trailer had several salvaged barn beams which were found to have been improperly secured. Several of these beams came loose and fell on the highway.

A van, being driven by 56 year old David Heup from Shawano, was also westbound. The driver was unable to avoid one of these beams in the roadway and struck it with the driver's side tire. This caused the tire to go flat, and Heup pulled to the right shoulder. As the driver exited his van, he started to remove the jack from the rear of his vehicle in order to change his tire.

A third vehicle, a westbound motorcycle operated by 40 year old Daniel Smith from Schofield, was operating in the left lane when it struck a beam lying across the pavement. The motorcycle rider was thrown from his vehicle sliding along the concrete. The motorcycle slid towards the disabled van where it struck Heup.

Heup suffered serious life threatening injuries in the crash. An off-duty police officer from West Allis and other passers-by come upon the scene, and were able to apply immediate life saving measures to help stabilize him until additional assistance could arrive. Heup was flown by helicopter to Saint Joseph's trauma center in Marshfield. A second passenger in the van was uninjured.

Smith, who was not wearing a helmet, also suffered non-life threatening injuries in the crash. He was attended to by deputies and EMS, and was subsequently transported to Saint Joseph's Hospital by ambulance. Smith was alone on the motorcycle.

Porter was subsequently issued a citation for failure to properly secure a load, which carries a penalty of \$200.50. The investigation is now complete.

One lane of Highway 10 was closed for almost 2 hours while responders assisted the injured and worked to clear the scene. The Portage County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Wisconsin State Patrol, Portage County Ambulance, Rudolph Fire & Rescue, Rudolph Emergency Medical Responders, and Spirit of Marshfield air ambulance.

The Sheriff's Office urges motorists to ensure that any loads are properly secured, that disabled vehicles are pulled well off of the roadway, that you exercise extreme caution if you have to exit your vehicle near traffic, and for all cyclists to wear their helmets. ###