



MIKE LUKAS  
*Sheriff*

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## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018

### **Multi-vehicle Crash on Interstate 39 Suspect Who Fled the Scene was Apprehended**

On Friday, November 16, 2018, at approximately 6:07 PM, the Portage County Sheriff's Office received a 9-1-1 call of a one vehicle roll-over crash on I-39 near County Highway HH. Upon arrival, deputies discovered that a single southbound vehicle had lost control, crossed the median and overturned, and came to rest on its roof in the northbound lanes of traffic. The driver, and lone occupant, had reportedly fled the scene of the crash.

Deputies discovered several empty vodka bottles in the vehicle, and witnesses reported that the driver appeared intoxicated as he ran from the scene. Law enforcement began to search for the suspect, including using a canine to track the individual.

During the incident, a seven vehicle chain reaction crash occurred in the southbound lanes of I-39 after one driver slowed to observe the original crash scene, and other motorists failed to slow in time, crashing into vehicles ahead of them. There were several injuries resulting from the series of crashes, including one occupant was flown to Aspirus Hospital in Wausau with what appeared to be non-life threatening injuries.

At approximately 9:15 PM, a security guard at AIG Insurance reported a male hiding on the business property. The report was that the male appeared to be intoxicated and injured.

Officers arrived on the scene, identified the suspect as the driver of the original roll-over crash, and took him into custody. The driver, later identified as 37 year old Joshua Cisewski from the Town of Stockton, was arrested for operating while intoxicated (OWI) – 3<sup>rd</sup> offense, OWI causing great bodily harm, OWI causing injury, operating a motor vehicle without owner's consent, bail jumping, and four outstanding warrants among other criminal and traffic charges.

Mr. Cisewski appeared in Portage County Circuit Court Brach 2, where it was ordered that he be held on \$20,000 cash bond for the crash and resulting series of events.

Both the north and southbound lanes of the interstate were closed for approximately 1½ hours. The Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Plover and Stevens Point Police Departments, Wisconsin State Patrol, Portage County Ambulance, and several area fire and EMS departments.

The Sheriff's Office urges motorists to keep their attention on the roadway ahead of them when passing through an emergency scene, expect other motorists to react unexpectedly, and always wear your safety belt.

The Sheriff's Office continues to investigate the incident.

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