

?Tennessee woman critically injured in accident

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 24 June 2008 19:00 - Last Updated Thursday, 26 June 2008 10:41

?A motorist was seriously injured on Interstate 65 on Wednesday, June 18, in an accident that occurred just after 7:30 p.m. around the 35 mile marker.

Indiana State Police Trooper Brian Busick was dispatched to the scene, where a northbound Ford Focus, driven by Kathy Nix, 46, Tennessee, had run across the grassy median of the interstate into the southbound lane. There, the car struck the back trailer wheels of a semi-tractor-trailer being driven south by Donald Jenkins, 55, Muncie. Jenkins' wheels popped and his axle dented with the impact. The Focus was thrown toward the guardrail, its motor and transmission ripped away from the car body. The transmission was later found about 100 feet away from the point of impact. The motor landed in the median and caught fire.

When Trp. Busick arrived, he said Jenkins was putting out the engine fire with his fire extinguisher. Nix was found in the car still strapped in the driver's seat. She was being attended by Jenkins' wife, Angie, who is a registered nurse.

Calls went out for medical and other assistance. Scott County EMS technicians responded as did members of the Jennings Township Volunteer Fire Department, the Scott County Sheriff's Department and Austin City Police. Several other ISP officers also came to the scene to assist.

Nix was air-lifted from the scene by Dove Flight air ambulance to University of Louisville Hospital, where she was admitted and treated for multiple injuries.

There were two other vehicles involved in the mishap. An International semi-tractor-trailer operated by Michael Williams, 29, North Manchester, and a Dodge Ram pickup and boat trailer loaded with a 27-foot boat that was being pulled by Christopher Nichols, 38, Camby, ran over accident debris, with their vehicles experiencing some damage.

Both Williams and Nichols had been headed south and were in the passing lane of the interstate slightly behind the Jenkins rig, which was in the "slow" lane when the accident occurred.

The accident caused both northbound and southbound traffic to be affected as debris was cleared by Jennings Twp. firemen and wreckage hauled away by Goodin's Diesel of Scottsburg. North traffic was restricted to one lane, and

southbound lanes were closed for nearly three hours. South traffic was diverted at the Crothersville exit onto U.S. Highway 31 and then allowed to get back on at both Austin and Scottsburg.

Officers assisting at the scene included ISP Sgt. John Cleveland, Troopers Shannon Burton and Nathan Abbott and an unidentified trooper from the Seymour district. The wreck occurred just south of the Scott/Jackson County line.

Officers from Scott County were Paul Clute of Austin City Police and Sheriff's Deputies Rodney Rudder and Mark Hays and Chief Deputy Wayne Williams.