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Northbound I-5 Crash

First aid workers respond to a collision between a recreational vehicle and a semitruck just south of Chamber Way on northbound Interstate 5 in Chehalis on Tuesday afternoon.

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Multiple Collisions on I-5 Near Chehalis Causes One Person to be Airlifted to Harborview, a Show Dog to Escape and Hours of Traffic By The Chronicle | 3 comments

A collision between a semi truck and a motorhome Tuesday morning sent three people to the hospital and caused traffic to stall on Interstate 5 for more than two hours. A 71-year-old Shelton woman, Patricia J. Rodgers, was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center with a leg injury that was suspected to be a broken femur, according to Washington State Patrol. Rodgers was a passenger in the motorhome that was travelling northbound on I-5 that collided with the semi truck near mile 78.

The driver of the 1999 freightliner motorhome, a 66-year-old Shelton man, Donald E. Rodgers, was transported to Providence Centralia Hospital along another passenger in the vehicle, Debra A. Carter, 18, of Lacey. The motorhome was totalled.

The motorhome was also apparently transporting several showdogs, said Trooper Will Finn, spokesman for the Washington State Patrol. Some of the dogs got loose, and Chehalis animal control from the city responded to the collision scene to attempt to catch the dogs. None of the dogs were injured.

One of the dogs, a whippet named Steeler, was still at large as of 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, according to comments on the SIRENS by The Chronicle Facebook page from people who spotted the dog running through the city of Chehalis.

The motorhome collided with the rear of the semi after the semi truck changed into the lane the motorhome was travelling in, according to Washington State Patrol. The collision sent debris over the northbound lanes of I-5 and caused that portion of the interstate to close until about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The semi truck, a 2012 Kenworth truck towing a van trailer, was driven by a 27-year-old Kelso man, Patrick M. Kiser, who was not injured, according to Washington State Patrol. The semi was damaged but was driven from the scene.

The cause of the collision is still under investigation, and possible criminal charges are pending, according to Washington State Patrol. The motorhome-semi truck collision was one of three on Tuesday that happened on I-5 near the Centralia and Chehalis areas.

There was also a five-car collision near milepost 80 at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday that also occurred in the northbound lanes after a state trooper attempted to pull over the driver of a Honda who was speeding, according to Washington State Patrol. The driver of the 2012 Honda Civic, Ranhee C. Pae, veered across two lanes and stopped on the left shoulder.

In order to avoid colliding with the Honda, four other cars came to a stop in one of the lanes and a fifth vehicle struck them from behind, according to Washington State Patrol. No one was injured, however a 2008 Mercedes C350 and a 2011 Chevrolet Silverado were both totalled and towed from the scene.

The third collision occurred in the southbound lanes at milepost 81 at about the same time, according to Washington State Patrol. No one was injured.

