

Numerous area accidents attributed to slippery road conditions

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Accidents

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Reports have been received by the PAR Broadcast Group concerning no fewer than EIGHT injury traffic accidents from New Year's morning and New Year's Eve.

A Gallatin man was injured early Tuesday morning when his pickup began to slide on snow-covered Highway 13 in Daviess County. The Highway Patrol said Timothy Thomas's northbound truck was in the SOUTHBOUND lane; crossed the center line, drove off the east side, and hit an embankment before coming to rest in a field. The pickup was demolished.

Forty-seven year old Timothy Thomas received what the Patrol called SERIOUS injuries. He was taken by ambulance to Heartland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph.

The accident happened one mile south of Jameson about 1:25 New Year's morning.

An arrest report said Timothy Thomas faces multiple charges including Driving While Intoxicated; Driving while his license was suspended or revoked; Felony possession of a fire arm; Careless and imprudent driving involving an accident, and a seat belt violation.

A Bethany man was injured in a single vehicle accident eight miles south of Bethany on Monday afternoon. The Highway Patrol said 20 year old Toby Ratliff received MODERATE injuries and was taken to Harrison County Community Hospital in Bethany. The patrol said Ratliff was northbound when his sports utility vehicle slid sideways and went off the west side of Highway 146. It came to rest upright but in the ditch. Damage was extensive to the S-U-V.

In northwestern Daviess County at mid-day Monday, 17 year old Jeanette Cruthis of McFall received MODERATE injuries from an accident three miles east of McFall. She was taken to Northwest Medical Center of Albany.

The Patrol said Miss Cruthis was northbound on snow-covered Route T. She apparently lost control and her car began sliding, went across and off the west side of Route T where it struck several large rocks. The car overturned once, then vaulted into a creek, coming to rest upright. The car was demolished.

Another single vehicle accident happened on Highway 24 in Carroll County late Monday morning. Forty-four year old Brenda Proctor of Bosworth sustained MODERATE injuries and was taken to Carroll County Memorial Hospital in Carrollton. The patrol said Ms. Proctor was eastbound when her sport utility vehicle ran off the right side of Highway 24 and collided with the ditch. Damage was extensive to the motor vehicle.

In northeast Missouri, one person was injured in an accident on Monday afternoon involving three vehicles near Novinger in western Adair County.

Sixty-one year old Anthony Bunnell of Unionville received MODERATE injuries and was taken to Northeast Regional Medical Center of Kirksville. The Highway Patrol explained a pickup was attempting to pull another vehicle from the ditch along Highway 149, one mile north of Novinger. Bunnell was southbound at the time and according to officers, his car went out of control on the snow and slid into the pickup causing it to strike the vehicle that was stuck.

Operators or owners of the other two vehicles were not identified in the report. Damage was minor to those two and extensive to the car operated by Anthony Bunnell.

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At a location one mile WEST of Novinger on Monday morning, a Green Castle man 59 year old David Gubalke received minor injuries and was taken to the hospital in Kirksville.

The Patrol said he was westbound on Highway 6 when he swerved to avoid a vehicle whose driver was described as losing control. Gubalke crossed the center line and collided with an oncoming car and slid off the north side of the road. That other car was driven by 24 year old Dawna Folson of Green CITY who apparently escaped injury. Both of the vehicles received minor damage.

In eastern Putnam County on Monday night, three persons from Unionville received injuries when a pickup truck went out of control on a curve and overturned on Route W at Worthington.

According to the Patrol, they were the driver: 17 year old Austin VanHoutan and passengers: 15 year old Joshua Laws and 21 year old Eric Rollins.

The report indicated Van Houtan and Laws received MODERATE injuries and were taken to Northeast Regional Medical Center of Kirksville while Rollins was treated at the scene for what was listed as minor injuries. The pickup truck was demolished.

Closer to Kansas City, the Highway Patrol investigated three accidents within five MINUTES of each other one of them including a fatality. All were on Interstate 35 in the Kearney area and within a mile or one another.

The Highway Patrol said 35 year old Christopher Barnes of Shawnee, Kansas was a pedestrian who was fatally injured when struck by a jeep. He was pronounced dead at Liberty Hospital.

The Patrol explained Barnes was walking behind a stopped vehicle as the other began to slide forward on the snow covered southbound I-35 and it hit him and the back of his vehicle before sliding off into a ditch. The patrol said the investigation continues.

Operators of the vehicles involved were listed as 23 year old Jessica Hammell of Des Moines, Iowa and 19 year old Max Francisco of Kansas City.