



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### Head-on Collision Causes Injuries to Ten Vehicle Occupants

Grand Teton National Park rangers, interagency fire staff, and emergency medical personnel responded to a major motor vehicle accident involving a head-on collision on Highway 89/287 near Willow Flats overlook yesterday afternoon, August 21, at 1:50 p.m. The two-vehicle accident caused serious injuries to nine people and minor injuries to one person; some of those involved received multiple and life threatening injuries and were flown by separate helicopters to a regional medical center and a local hospital.

Jie Shull, age 35, of Lander, Wyoming was traveling southbound in a Volkswagen van on the park road between Willow Flats overlook and Jackson Lake Junction when Bruno Bussolino, age 51, of Torino, Italy, crossed over the double yellow line as he was driving northbound in a rental Dodge minivan. For reasons still under investigation, Bussolino drifted into the southbound lane causing the collision with the Volkswagen. Both vans were carrying four passengers, in addition to their drivers; the Volkswagen van included two teenage boys, while the Dodge minivan had four adult passengers. Riders in the Volkswagen received serious injuries; however, airbags deployed by the Dodge likely helped prevent major injuries to its passengers.

An extensive emergency response was coordinated by numerous park rangers after the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center received a call reporting the head-on collision. The emergency response ultimately included more than twenty Grand Teton National Park employees, in addition to Teton interagency fire personnel, Jackson Hole Fire and EMS staff, Teton County ambulances, a life-flight helicopter from Eastern Idaho Medical Center (EIRMC) of Idaho Falls, Idaho, and a Teton interagency contract helicopter.

All patients were initially given emergency medical care at the accident site. Due to the serious nature of their injuries, one 14-year-old male was flown directly to EIRMC in Idaho, and a 12-year-old male was flown by the park's contract helicopter to St. John's Medical Center. The other patients were quickly transported by multiple ambulances to St. John's Medical Center in Jackson.

Five minutes after receiving notice of the head-on collision, the Teton Interagency Dispatch Center also got a call reporting a motorcycle accident with traumatic injuries to a single rider. Several park staff, plus Jackson Hole Fire and EMS and Teton County Search and Rescue personnel simultaneously responded to this accident scene, located about five miles east of the head-on collision site. The motorcyclist, Daniel C. Cheek, of Seabrook, Texas did not survive his injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene after CPR and advanced emergency medical care could not revive him.

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