



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton
National Park

PO Box 170
Moose, Wyoming 83012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 22, 2007 07-49

Jackie Skaggs
307.739.3393

Grand Teton National Park News Release

Single Vehicle Rollover on Wilderness Road Causes Multiple Injuries

Grand Teton National Park rangers responded to a serious accident involving a single vehicle rollover in the early morning hours of Saturday, July 21. The accident took place when the driver, Matthew Stiles, age 21, of Valley, Alabama, failed to negotiate a sharp curve in the road and rolled his pickup truck carrying six other passengers at approximately 1:40 a.m. Stiles was traveling on the Wilderness Road, a backcountry dirt road leading to the Teton Wilderness area, and was just three miles north of the junction with Pacific Creek Road—approximately seven miles northwest of the park’s Moran Entrance Station— when the accident occurred.

The Teton County sheriff’s office received a 911 call at approximately 1:45 a.m., reporting an accident with multiple injured persons. They immediately notified Teton Interagency Dispatch Center and all three of the park’s medical ambulances were quickly dispatched to the scene along with 15 Grand Teton National Park personnel and three Jackson Hole Fire and EMS staff with a Teton County ambulance.

Four of the seven vehicle occupants were given emergency medical care on site before being transported to St. John’s Medical Center in Jackson for further treatment. Stiles, the driver of the vehicle, was subsequently airlifted from Jackson to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls, Idaho due to the seriousness of his injuries.

Stiles and his six passengers, most of whom are seasonal workers in Jackson Hole for the summer, had attended a party at the end of the remote dirt road. According to witnesses, Stiles may have been speeding when he missed a sharp turn in the road and rolled his pickup truck carrying his brother Peter Stiles, age 30, of Boca Grande, Florida, and five other passengers. Two of the passengers were riding in the bed of the truck and were ejected from the pickup in the rollover. Matthew Stiles, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was also ejected from the vehicle. One passenger riding in the cab of the truck was wearing a seatbelt and did not receive any injuries; the other four passengers in the truck’s cab were not wearing seats belts. Although none of the passengers in the cab were ejected from the vehicle, two received injuries that required transport to the hospital.

In addition to the significant park response, two Teton County deputy sheriffs also assisted by getting witness accounts and tracking down the whereabouts of the seventh passenger who did not remain at the scene of the accident until park rangers could arrive.

An accident investigation is underway; however, alcohol, as well as speed, may have been a contributing factor.

—NPS—
www.nps.gov/grte

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.