

JUNEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT

6255 ALAWAY AVENUE ○ JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

Greg Browning
Chief of Police

Committed to Service and Excellence

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INFORMATION RELEASE

Subject: School Bus Crash

Date: 09-10-2009

From: Sergeant Tom Bates

Case or Incident: 090910-013

Summary:

On 09-10-2009, at 3:38pm, the Juneau Police Department received a second hand report of a school bus crash on Mendenhall Peninsula Road. Responding officers located the scene in the 1100 block of Mendenhall Peninsula road, however the bus was not there.

Investigation revealed a tree had fallen into the roadway and the bus had hit the fallen tree. The driver had apparently notified the bus company who sent a crew to the location to remove the tree. Another bus was also dispatched to finish the route. No one from the bus company offices, or the bus driver, notified police of the incident. It was learned there were 5 students on the bus at the time of the crash all from Auke Bay Elementary School. Their names were not immediately known.

Investigating officers went to the school bus barn and located the damaged bus. The driver, along with the bus company manager, were interviewed. The driver, 55 year old Florendo Tolero, was subsequently charged with Failing to Make Immediate Notice of an Accident a "B" misdemeanor.

Officers through their investigation learned the identities of all the children on board the bus and contacted their parents. None of the children were injured.

The investigation into this incident continues.

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Any charges reported in this press release are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

***** END OF STATEMENT *****

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