

JUNEAU POLICE DEPARTMENT

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INFORMATION RELEASE

Subject: Motor Vehicle Collision/School Bus Date: Thursday, March 08, 2007

From: Sgt Steve D. Hernandez Case or Incident # 2007-007363

Summary:

On Thursday, March 08, 2007, at approximately 7:15 am, the Juneau Police Department received a report that an AB&G school bus had collided with a guardrail in the inbound lanes of Egan Drive, south of the Lemon Creek Bridge. Further information was obtained from the bus line supervisor who stated that the driver of the bus had attempted to avoid colliding with another out of control vehicle on the icy/snow covered roadway, then collided with the guardrail.

Upon Officers arrival, it was noted that inbound Egan Drive traffic was backed up past Sunny Point due to the school bus stopped, up against the guardrail. The bus was found to have twenty-one high school students onboard. None of the occupants were injured. The bus sustained minor damage to the right/front portion of its bumper from the impact. The bus driver stated that he had been driving on the right lane of Egan Drive. A vehicle in the left lane had lost control on the icy roadway and swerved into the buses lane of travel. The bus driver turned sharply to the right in order to avoid the out of control vehicle, and then collided with the guardrail. The other vehicle left the area.

As Officers were speaking with the bus driver, the driver of the other vehicle arrived to the scene. He was identified as a 17-year-old local male. He was driving a 1996 Mazda.

The driver said he had been driving on Egan Drive and had attempted to brake for a vehicle, which had stopped in front of him. His vehicle lost traction on the icy road then swerved into the right lane, in front of the school bus. He said his vehicle impacted with the guardrail, causing approximately \$2000 in damage, but he did not realize that the bus had also impacted with the guardrail.

The driver of the 1996 Mazda was cited for Careless Driving, a violation and released from the scene. The bus also continued with the students to the high school.

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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