



Newport Police Department

169 SW Coast Highway
Newport, Oregon 97365

NPD MEDIA RELEASE

01/18/2012 2:45 p.m.

- Incident:** Truck Topples Over on Bridge
- Location:** Yaquina Bay Bridge
- Date/Time:** 01/18/2012 at 10:30 a.m.
- Driver 1:** Bakhretdin A. Shakirov, age 49 of Sea Tac, WA
- Driver: 2:** Alan Polston, age 58 of Newport

Details: On January 18, 2012, at approximately 10:30 a.m. Newport Police Officers and Newport Firefighters were dispatched to the south end of the Yaquina Bay Bridge in response a traffic crash involving a semi tractor trailer. The semi tractor trailer was driven by Bakhretdin Shakirov of Sea Tac, Washington. Officers observed a small Ford Ranger pick-up truck pinned between the bridge's east guardrail and the trailer of the semi. Officers discovered the driver of the Ford Ranger truck, Alan Polston of Newport, trapped inside his pick-up. Due to extreme weather conditions, including high winds, the semi tractor was rocking and determined unstable. Officers were able to extricate Polston from the wreckage of his vehicle. He suffered minor injuries, refusing medical transport.

Due to the severe weather conditions, Officers escorted Polston and Shakirov off the bridge. All traffic was removed from the bridge and the bridge was closed.

The investigation revealed that Shakirov was traveling south across the Yaquina Bay Bridge, driving a Volvo tractor, pulling an empty cargo trailer. The tractor was struck by high wind gusts, which forced the tractor and trailer into the northbound lane. The tractor struck Polston's vehicle. The Ford Ranger was forced into the east guardrail, where the Volvo tractor and trailer came to rest, pinning it and trapping Polston inside his vehicle.

The empty cargo trailer continued to be struck by high winds, lifting the trailer off the road and slamming it back down. Due to the unstable trailer waiting on the bridge to be towed, and the continuing severe weather conditions, the

bridge was closed until a wrecker could remove both vehicles. At 2:25 p.m., both vehicles were towed, and the bridge re-opened. The semi tractor suffered extensive front-end and trailer damage; the Ford Ranger was totaled. The crash also caused minor damage to the bridge.

Due to the light weight of the empty cargo trailer, and the severe weather conditions, it was unsafe for Shakirov to attempt crossing the Yaquina Bay Bridge. Shakirov was issued a citation for Careless Driving.

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Information Released By: Lt. Jason Malloy, 541-574-3348