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Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 11, 2013



Four Standing at Crash Scene Struck by Another Vehicle

Milwaukee, WI – Yesterday at about 1:40 p.m., a series of chain reaction crashes involving four vehicles occurred on the west-to-north ramp (I-94 eastbound to I-45 northbound) in the Zoo Interchange.

According to witnesses, in the first event, a driver of a tan Ford lost control, struck the median wall and spun out, coming to rest facing the wrong way in the curve. A red van attempted to avoid that crash by moving over a lane, but was struck by a white utility truck. The van was pushed into the first crashed vehicle. There were no injuries.

All three vehicles moved into the left distress lane. Four occupants got out and were standing in the grassy area adjacent to the distress lane. A fourth vehicle lost control in the curve and slammed into the van, which struck the four pedestrians, sending them off their feet and into the snowy/grassy area.

A passenger in the van was unharmed. The fourth vehicle bounced off the van and went across the traffic lanes and came to a stop in lanes two and three. Those struck by the van suffered minor injuries, and two people were transported to Froedtert Hospital.

Drivers involved in freeway crashes are advised to remain in their vehicles, or get away from the freeway and distress area if they must get out their vehicles, and wait for the arrival of deputies.

Safe Driving Tips from the Wisconsin DOT Motorists' Handbook:

Winter Driving Safety Tips

First is worst. In the first storm of the season, most drivers have forgotten their safe winter driving skills. They'll drive too fast and try to stop too quickly. Go slow. Increase following distances. Drive defensively. Relearn your skills.

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Go slow. Drive well below the posted speed limit. Posted limits are intended for summer months on dry pavement. Avoid sudden, sharp turns. Use light braking by gently pumping the brakes.

Plan ahead. Plan on trips taking extra time. Leave earlier. Consider an alternate route. STAY HOME if conditions are too bad.

Use your head, use your feet. Never use cruise control on slippery roads.

Lighten up. Turn on your headlights. To prevent glare, avoid using your high beams during a night storm.

Wear your seatbelts.

Give snow plows room. Snowplows are wide. They often need to operate very close to the center line. Sometimes they throw up clouds of snow, which affects your vision. Slow down and give them as much room as possible. On roads with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or more, the law requires drivers to stay at least 200 feet behind a snowplow when its red or amber lights are on.

Following-distance rule: Watch for when the rear of the vehicle ahead passes a sign, tree or any other stationary point. Consider it to be your "mark." Count the seconds it takes you to reach the same mark. ("One-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three, one-thousand-four.") You are following too closely if you pass the mark before you finish counting. If so, drop back and then count again at another mark to check the new following distance. Repeat until you are following no closer than the minimum recommended following distance. A minimum four second following distance is recommended under ideal driving conditions. However, in the following situations, you **may need more following distance** to be safe:
on slippery roads. Because you need more distance to stop your vehicle on slippery roads, you must leave more space in front of you. If the vehicle ahead suddenly stops, you will need the extra distance to stop safely.

If You Are In A Crash

Stop your vehicle at or near the crash site. If your vehicle can be moved, get it off the road so it does not block traffic or cause another crash.

Do not stand or walk in traffic lanes. You could be struck by another vehicle.

Turn off the ignition of wrecked vehicles. Do not smoke around wrecked vehicles. Fuel could have spilled and fire is a real danger.

If there are power lines down with wires in the road, do not go near them.

Make sure other traffic will not be involved in the crash. Use triangles, flares or other warning devices to alert traffic to the crash.

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