



For Immediate Release

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WSP Trooper Rear-Ended By Impaired Driver

Okanogan: – Washington State Patrol (WSP) Trooper Conner Bruchman sustained minor injuries when he was rear-ended by an impaired driver on US 97 MP 286 near Okanogan on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at about 6:10p.m. Trooper Bruchman was northbound at about 55 miles per hour, following slower traffic, when 18 year old Dakota Simpson of Okanogan, also northbound, rear-ended Trooper Bruchman. Trooper Bruchman was treated and released at Mid Valley Hospital in Okanogan and will be recovering at home for the next couple days.

Mr. Simpson was not injured and was arrested for Driving Under the Influence. A Drug Recognition Expert conducted an evaluation of Mr. Simpson and concluded he was under the influence of cannabis and a depressant at the time of the collision. He was booked into Okanogan Co. Jail for DUI.

The WSP strictly enforces DUI laws. WSP focuses not only on drunk drivers, but also those under the influence of prescription or illegal drugs. Please use a designated driver, call a friend, or use a taxi to get home safely. If you see a driver you believe to be DUI, call 911 with the vehicles description and direction of travel. The Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DEC) began in February 1996. Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) are trained to recognize the symptoms of intoxication from seven different categories of drugs (Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants, CNS Stimulants, Hallucinogens, Dissociative Anesthetics, Narcotic Analgesics, Inhalants and Cannabis). A 12-step standardized process is used to identify drug impairment. The Washington State Patrol provides training to both troopers and officers from local law enforcement agencies. The WSP has 90 Drug Recognition Experts throughout the state, and has trained numerous other DREs for different agencies.

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