

Michael Brooks

From: Carra, Joseph [Joseph.Carra@nhtsa.dot.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2004 9:59 PM
To: Clarence Ditlow; MBrooks@AutoSafety.org; KYDSNCARS@aol.com
Cc: ken Digges
Subject: RE: Car plows into crowd at school injuring a dozen

Clarence,

This crash would not be reportable under FARS (had there been a fatality), because the unstabilized event did not occur on a public roadway. It (loss of control) occurred on a driveway - the entrance to the school.

Joe

-----Original Message-----

From: Clarence Ditlow [mailto:cmdiii@AutoSafety.org]
Sent: Sunday, October 03, 2004 12:11 PM
To: Carra, Joseph; MBrooks@AutoSafety.org; KYDSNCARS@aol.com
Cc: ken Digges
Subject: RE: Car plows into crowd at school injuring a dozen

" Investigators said they do not know what caused the driver of the car - identified by CBS4 News and neighbors as Enrico Caruso, 65, of Stoneham - to lose control of his light blue Chevrolet Corsica as he drove down the driveway of Central Elementary School at 2:15 p.m."

It's not a fatal so it won't go in FARS in any event but if there were a death, it's not in FARS because all of the events occurred on school property, not on a roadway.

Do you agree Joe?

-----Original Message-----

From: KYDSNCARS@aol.com [mailto:KYDSNCARS@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 02, 2004 8:09 PM
To: MBrooks@autosafety.org; cmdiii@autosafety.org
Subject: Car plows into crowd at school injuring a dozen



2913 West 113th Stret, Leawood, KS 66211 (913) 327-0013 Fax (913) 327-0014

Hi:

Would this be considered a nontraffic incident because it took place outside of a school? or are schools considered public property? Your thoughts?

Best,
Janette

Horrific crash in Stoneham: Car plows into crowd at school injuring a dozen

By Casey Ross, David Weber and Sheila Halloran
Saturday, October 2, 2004

An afternoon pick-up at a Stoneham elementary school turned horrific yesterday when an elderly amputee plowed his car into a crowd of students and parents, pinning several young children against a concrete wall, authorities said.

"It sounded like really loud gunfire," said Lorin Sledge, who heard the impact as she was walking to pick up her 7-year-old son. "People were screaming at the top of their lungs. It sounded like a bomb going off."

The freakish crash left 12 people hurt, including one 5-year-old boy and two 3-year-olds who were slammed against a one-foot high wall near the school's entrance along with an adult woman.

The four seriously injured were taken to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. By early yesterday evening, all of their conditions were upgraded, the adult and the 5-year-old to serious, and the two younger children to fair, a hospital spokeswoman said.

The 5-year-old boy lost a large amount of blood due to crushing injuries to both legs and could face amputation, a physician said.

"It is uncertain if we can salvage his extremities," said Dr. Alasdair Conn, director of emergency services at Massachusetts General Hospital. "We are doing what we can. The worst case is he will lose both legs."

Investigators said they do not know what caused the driver of the car - identified by CBS4 News and neighbors as Enrico Caruso, 65, of Stoneham - to lose control of his light blue Chevrolet Corsica as he drove down the driveway of Central Elementary School at 2:15 p.m.

"We have an elderly gentlemen who picked up a student at the school," Police Chief Gregory O'Keefe said. "We don't know why he lost control of the vehicle at this time."

He said investigators were looking into whether the car jumped the curb to avoid another vehicle before plowing into the children. A state police reconstruction team was examining a green pickup truck in the school parking lot.

Caruso, who walks with a prosthesis on his right leg, was interviewed by investigators, but has not been charged. His license was revoked following the terrifying crash.

"Sometimes, it's just an accident," O'Keefe said. "... If charges need to be filed, then we will file them."

Several other adults and children were also admitted to Boston-area hospitals with injuries last night. Three adults and a child were taken to Winchester Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, while two other children, including a 6-year-old boy, were admitted to New England Medical Center. The 6-year-old was in critical condition.

Witnesses and emergency workers described a frightening scene in which students and parents were running in all directions.

One young girl became trapped underneath the man's car for several minutes and was eventually freed by adults who ran to her aid, officials said. Witnesses said the impact of the car was deafening.

Stoneham firefighters who responded to the scene yesterday said they were struggling with images of the tragedy last night. The firefighters battled to block out the trauma as they tended to the three children and a 40-year-old woman with a severe leg injury.

"It was chaos," said Stoneham Fire Capt. Scott Webber last night. "... It's like someone hit you in the face. That poor woman! It looked like her leg was amputated."

Meanwhile, shaken school officials huddled in a crisis meeting last night.

"We're all in shock," School Superintendent Joseph Connelly said last night.