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Crash victim in critical condition - Six taken to hospitals after collision; drivers arrested for vehicular assault

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by [Erica Hall](#)
Journal Reporter

BELLEVUE -- A 20-year-old man was in critical condition Sunday after a car crash late Saturday sent him to Harborview Medical Center with severe head and neck injuries.

Bellevue fire units were dispatched to the crash about 11:40 p.m. on Saturday, but upgraded to a rescue response after seeing how serious the collision was and how many patients there were. There were 11 people in the two-car collision.

According to police, the driver of a Jeep Cherokee, who police believe is in his late teens, apparently sped through an intersection and broadsided a BMW sedan in the intersection of 108th Avenue Northeast and Northeast Second Street.

Bellevue fire spokesman Lt. Bruce Kroon said an off-duty EMT, whose name he didn't catch, was working at one of the restaurants nearby and rushed to help when he heard there had been a crash. When fire and aid crews arrived, the man was still wearing his black apron as he tried to help one of the passengers in the BMW.

The rear drivers' side of the BMW took the brunt of the force, police said, which is where the seriously injured 20-year-old man, identified as University of Washington student Robert Vasen, was sitting.

Fire officials noted another BMW passenger was seriously injured and taken to Harborview. The three other occupants of the BMW, including the driver, were taken to Overlake Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Of the six people in the Jeep, five were uninjured or had minor injuries. They were questioned by police and released at the scene. The driver of the Jeep was taken to Overlake Hospital for observation.

Kroon said the vehicles impacted at such a high speed, and the force of the impact was so great, the Jeep driver bent the steering wheel. "They were going fast," he said.

Both drivers were arrested for vehicular assault at the scene, but only the driver of the Jeep was expected to be booked at the King County Jail once he was checked out of the hospital.

Police were still investigating who caused the crash Saturday night, and police suspect both drivers had been drinking. Bellevue police spokesman Officer Greg Grannis said he didn't know where the people were going or where they'd been before the wreck, but added officers at the scene specifically mentioned alcohol as a factor in the crash.

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