



May 25, 2009

****PRESS RELEASE ****

TRAIN / VEHICLE CRASH JUUNEAU BLVD AND ELM GROVE ROAD

The members of the Elm Grove Police Department extend our concerns and prayers to the family involved in this accident. Our thoughts and prayers are also firmly with Officer John Krahn and his wife, children and family.

At 9:30AM, today a mini van driven by a 40 year old West Allis woman, travelling West on Juneau Blvd., was struck by a southbound CP Rail freight train. The van was occupied by the woman driver and **one** of her three small children (two year old son).

Travelling in a separate vehicle was the woman's 47 year old husband. **Previous reports that all three children were in the vehicle are not correct. The other two children were in the father's vehicle and were never in harm's way.**

According to witness reports, as the mini-van became stuck on the tracks the woman's husband, along with Officer Krahn, of the Elm Grove Police Department, who was stationed at a traffic post, at Elm Grove Road and Juneau Blvd. for a scheduled Memorial Day Parade, ran to the stuck van in attempt to remove the occupants, prior to impact with the train. Officer Krahn physically assisted in the removal of the driver from the van, while the father attempted to remove the child. Neither Officer Krahn, nor the father was able to remove the child, prior to train impact. Both the officer and father were struck by the vehicle as it was struck by the train.

The mother and child were safe and have no reported injuries.

The father was transported by land ambulance to Froedtert Memorial Hospital.

Officer Krahn was transported to Froedtert Memorial Hospital, via air ambulance (Flight for Life).

Both the officer and father are currently undergoing surgical procedures. Any inquiry on their condition should be directed to Froedtert medical staff.

Officer Krahn is a seventeen year veteran with the Elm Grove Police Department. He is currently assigned to the day watch (7am to 3pm). He acts as the department's DARE officer and community services officer.

Details concerning the cause of this accident are currently under investigation, by the Elm Grove Police Department, the Wisconsin State Patrol and the CP Rail Police. While we have done our best to release accurate information, at the early stages of this investigation, further interviews and accident reconstruction information may result in changes to information that was previously reported as accurate.

The Village of Elm Grove Emergency Services Staff wish Officer Krahn and the father and husband of the minivan occupants, a safe and speedy recovery from the injuries that they sustained as a result of their selfless and heroic actions.

As this case develops, please contact Chief Jim Gage or Assistant Chief Gus Moulas at 262-786-4141. We hope to have more information available after 10AM on May 26.

James P. Gage
Chief of Police