

Middlebury Police Department

Media Release

13 February 2008

Subject: Fatal Accident

Time: 10:40 a.m., Wednesday, 13 February 2008

Place: U.S. Route 7 North, ¼ mile north of the intersection with Exchange Street, Middlebury

Victims:

Vehicle #1: Chevrolet Cavalier

Driver -	Dereck Busier, age 31, Bristol, VT
Front Passenger -	Jennifer Traverse, age 28, Bristol, VT
Back Seat -	Justin Traverse, age 10, Bristol, VT

All three suffered fatal injuries and were pronounced dead at the scene. Neither the driver nor front passenger were wearing seatbelts. The child in the back was wearing a seatbelt.

Vehicle #2: Jeep Cherokee

Driver and sole occupant - James Patrick Dunn, age 45, Salisbury, VT

Injury – non-life threatening. Dunn was transported from the scene by MVAA to Porter Hospital and later transferred to Fletcher Allen Hospital for treatment. Mr. Dunn was wearing his seatbelt and shoulder belt, and the air bag deployed.

Details:

Vehicle #1 was southbound on U.S. Route 7. Vehicle #2 was northbound on U.S. Route 7. About ¼ mile north of Exchange Street, Vehicle #1 began fishtailing and swerving back and forth across the lanes, crossing the northbound lane in front of Vehicle #2. The driver of Vehicle #2 turned his vehicle toward the northbound shoulder in an attempt to evade Vehicle #1, but struck Vehicle #1 broadside.

The impact collapsed the right side of Vehicle #1 and caused Vehicle #1 to spin off the northbound lane. Victims in Vehicle #1 were killed on impact.

It was rain/freezing rain at the time. Road surface was a mix of slush and water. Cause of the accident: Driver of Vehicle #1 failed to maintain control of the car. Weather and road conditions were a contributing factor.