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ESSEX POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: July 16, 2022
Case Number: 22ES005192

On July 16, 2022, at 8:46 pm the Essex Police responded to a two-car head on motor vehicle collision with multiple injuries located on Route 289 between the Exit 7 and Exit 9 ramps in the town of Essex.

Initial investigation revealed a male operator, Jean Duga (34) of Underhill, Vermont was operating a white 2011 Hyundai Tucson traveling eastbound on Route 289 when he crossed into oncoming traffic and struck a green 2014 Subaru Outback traveling westbound. Duga was traveling with his two dogs.

The operator of the Subaru was identified as Kevin Uhl (40) from Traverse City, Michigan who was traveling with his family which included an adult female (38), male juvenile (8), male juvenile (4), female juvenile (1).

Duga was transported to UVM Medical Center Emergency Department where he is listed in critical condition. One dog was transported from the scene to Bevs Animal Hospital for injuries. The other dog was later released to a family member.

Uhl and his family were also transported to the UVM Medical Center Emergency room for injuries ranging from major to minor.

A portion of Route 289 was closed to traffic for approximately two hours while emergency crews were investigating.

Essex Police was assisted by Vermont State Police, Essex Town Fire Department, Essex Junction Fire Department, Essex Rescue, Colchester Rescue, UVM Rescue, St. Michael's Rescue, and Anytime Towing.

Essex Police would also like to thank several citizens that included a medical doctor and a registered nurse who stopped to render aid until medical personnel arrived on scene.

Speed and impairment appear to be a factor. The investigation is ongoing. Any witnesses to the collision or the events leading up to that the police have not spoken to already are encouraged to contact the Essex Police.

Issued by: Sgt. John Dunn

Contact: Cpl. Michael Wootton/ Officer Stephen Gragg