

Minor injuries when wheel breaks off monster truck

July 2, 2022



Two young girls received minor injuries at the Del Norte County Fairgrounds during last Saturday night's Monster Truck Show when a wheel of the "Rock Star" monster truck broke loose following a jump and hard landing.

Following the stunt, a "mechanical failure" occurred that caused the tire to detach from the monster truck. The tire continued to roll into and over a barricade fence, then crashed into a private vehicle. The girls were injured by flying fence debris.

The incident occurred at 8:10 p.m. in the arena at the fairgrounds. According to Crescent City Fire & Rescue Battalion Chief James Weiland, the Monster Truck "Rock Star," driven by Bill Payne, had just completed a jump over the large central berm in the arena and landed on its front tires.

A "mechanical failure" caused the left front wheel and tire to detach from the truck.

“The wheel rolled northbound within the arena, then struck the fencing barricades,” Weiland said. “The tire continued in its path and struck an unoccupied private vehicle,” damaging the vehicle’s front end and hood.

The two youth females who were standing near the fencing were subject to indirect minor injuries, “mostly from fencing and debris,” according to CCFR reports.

CCFR and Del Norte Ambulance were already stationed at the fairgrounds arena to provide emergency services.

The young girls were assessed and tended to by ambulance personnel, then were transported to Sutter Hospital for precautionary purposes, Chief Welland reported.

Fire Chief Carey responded to the scene, then to Sutter Hospital. One girl had already been released; the other was in the process of being released when Chief Carey arrived.

In a statement to the Triplicate, Chief Carey said both patients “are doing well.” He also said that Crescent City Fire & Rescue “strives to learn from every emergency, in order to improve our knowledge base and ability to respond to the needs of the community. We will be evaluating the protocols in place during the show and will make adjustments as necessary.”

Barely two weeks after assuming command of the fire department, Chief Carey said he “and the entire Fire Department, remain committed to assisting our community partners at the Del Norte Fairgrounds to create a safe place for these exciting public events.” Chief Carey also responded quickly to the Triplicate’s request for information on the incident.

According to show announcer Dallas Glenn, monster trucks tires measure 66 inches in diameter and 43 inches wide.