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SERIOUS CRASH INJURES 5 AT LOWELL CONSTRUCTION SITE

The Lowell Police Department is investigating a serious motor vehicle crash that occurred on Appleton St. at the site of a construction project repairing natural gas lines. This morning workers from NEUCO (New England Utility Constructors Inc.) were preparing a trench on Appleton St., a two lane road in the downtown section of Lowell. Two Detail Officers were in place and traffic was being routed around the work crew utilizing cones delineating inbound and outbound lanes. At 9:33am inbound traffic was backed up to the Lord Overpass and there were approximately 10-12 vehicles moving slowly through the construction site. A vehicle at the back of the line suddenly moved left and accelerated down the wrong side of the road at a high rate of speed nearly striking the officer directing traffic. The vehicle struck the front bucket of a Bobcat machine spinning it nearly 270 degrees which in turn struck one of the NEUCO workers standing near the trench launching him into the air and onto the pavement 30 feet away. The vehicle then went air born coming to rest in the back of the NEUCO equipment truck. Another NEUCO worker who was in the trench injured his leg when he leapt out of the way of the vehicle. Debris from the Bobcats bucket went through the window of an unoccupied excavator and was scattered onto the street striking at least one vehicle in traffic causing damage to the body and windshield.

The operator of the vehicle is a 76 year old Lowell woman who had as a passenger her 84 year old husband. The worker who was struck by the spinning Bobcat was transported to Lowell General Hospital with serious head, neck and back injuries, currently listed as stable. The operator of the Bobcat and the worker who injured his leg were also transported to the hospital. The operator of the vehicle and her husband went to the hospital as well, but she refused any medical treatment. The husband was still being evaluated at this time. Officers from the LPD Crash Reconstruction Team are continuing the investigation to determine if and what charges could be lodged against the operator. The Lowell Police Department is asking anyone who may have been in traffic at the time of this crash, especially those that were passed by the offending vehicle, to contact them at 978-674-4505 or 978-937-3200.

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