



NEWS



News Headlines 03/28/2019

- Child hurt in crash; father arrested

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Jack Pennington, 37, of Yucca Valley, was driving a 2007 Nissan Quest north on Avalon Avenue, north of Songbird Lane, with his 4-year-old son in a passenger seat. Neither one was wearing a seatbelt, according to the CHP. Pennington was arrested.

YUCCA MESA — Three people were hurt, one seriously, in a collision the CHP blamed on drunk driving and unsafe passing around 3:20 p.m. Friday.

CHP Officer J. Williams reports Jack Pennington, 37, of Yucca Valley, was driving a 2007 Nissan Quest north on Avalon Avenue, north of Songbird Lane, with his 4-year-old son in a passenger seat. Neither one was wearing a seatbelt, according to the CHP.

Coming the opposite way, Gustavo Zermenoflores, 24, of Desert Hot Springs was driving a 2008 Ford F-250 truck hauling a trailer south on Avalon.

To pass a slower vehicle, Pennington traveled into the southbound lane and into Zermenoflores' path, a CHP report states. The truck and minivan collided.

Firefighters responded and the first arriving unit reported there were three critically injured patients and a fire burning in the engine compartment of the minivan, according to the county fire department.

Two fire engines, three ambulances and a battalion chief from the **San Bernardino County fire** department ultimately responded to extinguish the flames and treat and transport the injured people.

Two medical helicopters from Mercy Air were used to fly Pennington and his son to Desert Regional Medical Center. An ambulance crew drove Zermenoflores to the same hospital.

The CHP said Pennington suffered major injuries, his son suffered moderate injuries and Zermenoflores' injuries were classified as minor.

Pennington was also arrested for felony driving under the influence before he was released to the hospital. The district attorney had not filed charges by Wednesday afternoon.

"The California Highway Patrol would like to remind everyone to slow down, pay attention, buckle up and designate a sober driver," Officer J. Kobaly said.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_48af25c6-50ef-11e9-a59b-e7a035a4baad.html