

**BYRON TOWNSHIP  
PIAC - US 131**

At approximately 2:15 pm a three car vehicle accident occurred on US 131 northbound just north of 100<sup>th</sup> St. in Kent county. This crash involved three cars and one injured driver with minor injuries. This caused northbound US131 traffic to begin to back up to the south.

At approximately 2:20 pm a semi tractor and trailer had stopped on northbound US 131 south of 100<sup>th</sup> St. for the traffic back up. This trailer was struck from behind by a minivan style vehicle. The minivan had a total of eight occupants, two adults and six children. The impact was extremely severe and crushed the front of the minivan around the front seat adult occupants causing critical injuries.

The "Jaws of Life" was used by fire personnel to extract the front occupants of the minivan. The male driver was transported via ground ambulance to Spectrum Butterworth with critical injuries; the female front seat passenger was treated as a critical patient and taken by air ambulance to Spectrum Butterworth as well. The six children in the rear of the van were all transported to DeVos Children's Hospital via ground ambulances. The children's ages are estimated between six months and 10 years of age. Three of the children were not injured and three are being treated for serious non life threatening injuries.

This crash remains under investigation at this time. It has not yet been determined if all occupants of the minivan were restrained at the time of the crash.

The semi tractor trailer was operated by a lone male driver. This driver did not report any injuries on the scene. It was determined that there is no indication of the use of alcohol by the semi driver and he reported using his seatbelt at the time of the crash.

The Kent County Sheriff's Office has taken the lead for this investigation and was professionally assisted on the crash scene by The Michigan State Police from the Rockford and Wayland Post, The Michigan State Police Motor Carrier Unit, and the Allegan County Sheriff's Office. The responding Fire Departments included Byron Twp., Cutlerville, and Leighton Twp. AMR responded with multiple ground transportation ambulances.

This area of US 131 was closed for approximately 2 hours during the on scene treatment and investigation.

**Sgt. Tom Raymond  
Kent County Sheriff's Office**