



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

Media Release

Kootenai County Traffic Team Investigates Two Vehicle Serious Injury Crash, Ejects 1, Hospitalizes 3

On Wednesday, November 23, 2016, at about 3:30 PM, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office, and Kootenai County EMS responded to the intersection of N. Huetter Rd. and W. Lancaster Rd., near Rathdrum, for a reported two vehicle, injury crash.

On scene, it was determined that Brendon M. Keith, 27, of Post Falls, was driving his 1995 Saturn 4 door, northbound on N. Huetter Rd., when he failed to stop for the posted stop sign at W. Lancaster Rd., and collided with a westbound 1985 Ford F250 Utility Truck, driven by Matthew D. Free, 45, of Rathdrum.

Richard S. Powell, 46, of Coeur d'Alene, who was a passenger in Keith's vehicle, was ejected. After colliding with Keith's vehicle, Free's vehicle then crashed into a power pole. Free was trapped in his vehicle and EMS crews had to work for well over 30 minutes in order to extricate Free from the wreckage.

Everyone involved in the crash was transported to Kootenai Health. At the time of this release, Keith has been treated and released for minor, non-life threatening injuries, Free remains hospitalized in serious but stable condition and Powell is in critical condition.

Although a small amount of marijuana and some paraphernalia was located with Keith's vehicle, it does not appear to be a factor in this crash and Keith performed well on all evaluations.

The intersection was closed for about four hours after the Kootenai County Sheriff Traffic Team was called to the scene to take over the investigation.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger
By: Sgt. Ward Crawford
Traffic Sergeant
#16-33303