



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Woman escapes A55 Rhualt Hill wreck with barely a scratch

Nov 11 2009 by Eryl Crump, Daily Post

A WOMAN walked away uninjured after her car flipped off the A55 in a high speed smash. Her Citroen Xsara crashed through a fence and overturned just after she'd driven eastbound up Rhualt Hill.



This dramatic photograph shows the upside down car embedded in the grass verge, just after the expressway narrows from three lanes to two.

Emergency crews said the woman escaped with minor injuries. She was driving her metallic green car up the hill just **before 7.30am**.

A North Wales Police spokesman said: *"Fortunately the female driver, the only occupant, was able to get herself out and suffered only minor injuries and shock."*

Police closed one lane of the A55 at one of its busiest times while emergency crews dealt with the incident. The spokesman added: *"This was done for safety purposes and as soon as the emergency vehicles had completed their work the lane was re-opened. There were no significant delays and by 8.15am traffic was moving freely along both sides of the A55."*

Fire crews made the vehicle electrically safe. An ambulance was also called but the woman, who has not been named, did not need medical treatment.

In a separate incident near Wrexham motorists were delayed after two vehicles crashed on a busy interchange near Wrexham. No one was injured in the accident which happened just **before 7.30am** on the A483 at Ruabon.

The PPP comments We are aware of certain POTENTIAL hazards at these locations and our members have witnessed near misses. Rhualt Hill requires a degree of care and maximum attention. The three lane section has slow and very slow vehicles in the inner two lanes. We believe the gradient here is well above what would be good practice on a MOTORWAY. As the lanes merge the slow traffic is accelerating and bottlenecking can occur. It requires drivers to be proactive and unselfish and adjust their SPACING to allow for the merging. We don't know and the police do not comment on the weather or road conditions at the time. Note that the time was within minutes of sunrise. Morning and evening rush hours are now in the dark or dawn and the sun rising and setting can add another hazard.

Drivers are careless in not using dipped headlights approaching dawn and dusk and a police reminder INITIALLY via publicity and the very expensive road signs on the A55 would be a positive action. Patches of frost and black ice are also likely on elevated road sections of the A55 and particularly minor roads, again warnings are practicable. We also believe that more imaginative use of the advanced software now available in very affordable Vehicle activated signs (VAS) would reduce incidents on routes like the A55. We will be tabling such initiatives at meetings in the near future.