















West Springfield crash drives guardrail through car

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WEST SPRINGFIELD— The **West Springfield Police** Accident Reconstruction Team is investigating a single car crash early Monday that missed killing the driver by mere inches, when the entire car was impaled on a guardrail.

Sgt Brian Pomeroy said preliminary information indicates that the driver of the Honda Accord entered the southbound lane of the divided Route 5 at about 1:15 a.m., but was traveling northbound at a high rate of speed when his car slammed into the end of a guardrail. The tip of the rail penetrated the entire car, passing through the engine compartment, over the right shoulder of the driver, and out the back window of the car. The momentum of the heavy vehicle bent the guard rail at a 90 degree angle, and lifted the car from the pavement into the air then dropped it on top of a concrete jersey barrier divider.

Pomeroy said the driver suffered obvious facial injuries, but was conscious when police and fire personnel arrived on scene. **Firefighters** used extraction tools to remove the injured man from the wreckage.

He was transported from the scene by ambulance to the Baystate Medical Center. Police described the driver as a male in his mid-40s, but would not identify him.

The southbound lane of the highway was closed to traffic until approximately 5 a.m. to allow investigators access to the car and the roadway. The investigation is ongoing, police said.

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