

Highways in Ashe and Avery were closed for due to two traffic accidents—both involving tractor trailer trucks—and injuries. The more serious traffic trouble was in Avery, where an Ingles truck ran off of US 221 just north of Stamey Branch Road, striking a utility pole, then flipping over on its side. Part of the tractor trailer landed in the ditch, the rest across both lanes of Linville Falls Highway, with the first part of restoring traffic to deal with the downed utilities, according to trooper Boone of the SHP. He said that the Ingles truck had to be pulled from the ditch and manually unloaded before the truck could be taken away safely, and that took well into the evening. The Avery Sheriff's Department diverted traffic all afternoon, with help from the DOT and volunteer fire departments, with some traffic in passenger vehicles able to take one route, but trucks routed another due to the roads. Trooper Boone said that the driver of the truck suffered some cuts in the crash, and that the accident investigation is still underway. In Ashe, a tractor trailer and van collided west of the Jeffersons on NC 88 west, and some injuries were reported in that crash, but the road was reopened in short order—the State Patrol investigating that crash.