

## Incident Involving Deer Sends One to Hospital

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A woman was transported to the hospital after an accident involving a deer in Avery County Monday evening. According to Daniel Boone of the NC State Highway Patrol, John Dearmin, 15, of Elk Park, struck a deer while traveling south in a 2005 Chevy Suburban on Mullin Hill Road in Avery County around 6:30 p.m. Monday.

As Dearmin struck the deer, Donna Phillips, 50, traveling behind Dearmin in a 2006 Dodge Caravan, struck Dearmin from behind with heavy impact. Dearmin's mother, Michelle, was the front passenger in the Suburban along with an 8-year-old and 13-year-old sibling riding in the back. All passengers in Dearmin's vehicle were unharmed.

Phillips suffered a broken sternum in the accident and was transported by ambulance to Spruce Pine Hospital. A 3-year-old male and 5-year-old male, both traveling in the van with Phillips, were also unharmed and taken home by family members. Officer Boone charged Phillips with failure to reduce speed in the accident.