

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID P. BARTLETT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 4, 2014

SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATES OVERTURNED MILK TANKER

Taghkanic, NY- Sheriff David P. Bartlett reports that on January 3, 2014 at approximately 4:21pm, Columbia County 911 dispatched Sheriff Deputies for an overturned milk tanker on County Route 10, just south of Strohmeier Lane, in the Town of Taghkanic.

Deputies found that a 2013 Peterbuilt tractor and milk tanker trailer, operated by 49 year old Brian J. Gelinas of Red Hook, was traveling in a southerly direction on County Route 10 when he was unable to negotiate a hill due to slippery road conditions. The tractor trailer slid backwards, jack-knifed and overturned blocking the roadway. The tanker did have several thousand gallons of milk which was leaking out of the tanker; however, the exact amount is unknown. The driver was not injured, but he immediately called 911.

While the driver was calling 911, a 2000 Chevrolet Tahoe, operated by 48 year old Renea Fontanez of Cambridge Massachusetts, was traveling in a northerly direction and was unable to stop her vehicle striking the tractor trailer head on. The operator complained of neck, back, knee, and right side face pain. There were five passengers in the Tahoe; 44 year old Donna Ferreira complained of knee pain; 42 year old Renai Ferreira complained of neck, face, and rib pain; 45 year old Darlene Monette complained of leg and shoulder pain; 46 year old Denise Ferreira complained of face, shoulder, leg and foot pain. The fifth passenger was not injured. The driver and the passengers declined medical transport to the hospital

The accident is still under investigation.

Greenport Rescue Squad, Taghkanic Fire Department, and Josh Ufberg from NYSDEC assisted at the scene.

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Investigating for the Sheriff's Office were Deputy Jason Garvey and Deputy Michael Meier.

Sheriff Bartlett would like to send a special thank you to the resident who opened his home to emergency personnel and the persons involved in the accident.