

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John Batiste*

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

Date: June 1, 2009  
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## **Inattentive Motorcyclist Causes Severe Injuries and Nearly Crushes Emergency Medical Worker.**

Troopers already at the scene of a seven vehicle minor injury rollover collision southbound interstate 5 near Northgate were witness to the grisly motorcycle collision in the northbound lanes.

At approximately 6:30 am on June 1<sup>st</sup> state troopers and emergency medical staff were advised of three separate collisions with one vehicle rolled over in the southbound lanes of Interstate 5 near Northgate. The first emergency unit to arrive on the scene was an American Medical Response (AMR) ambulance who stopped to assist the injured from the northbound side of the freeway. At approximately 6:50 and just as Emergency Medical Technician Roseann Washington was returning to the rear doors of her ambulance to retrieve medical equipment, it was violently struck in the rear by a motorcycle traveling northbound in the HOV lane. The motorcycle which came within inches of crushing the EMT, threw the rider identified as a 30 year old Seattle man directly into the back doors of the stopped ambulance. Ms. Washington narrowly escaped severe injury only receiving a bruise to her hand. The motorcycle rider was treated and transported to Harborview Medical Center for severe injuries and at the time of this release was listed in serious but stable condition.

Troopers witnessing the collision remarked at seeing the motorcycle approaching the scene and looking over at the southbound collision the entire time prior to running directly into the rear of the partially blocking but full activated (all emergency lighting) ambulance. Further investigation of the rider also revealed that he was wearing a full face helmet which showed to have provided excellent protection for the rider (photos attached) although he was wearing stereo headphones in both ears attached to an iPod while riding which is illegal.

The State Patrol reminds all motorists to pay close attention to traffic and their immediate surroundings at all times and especially while approaching stopped emergency vehicles. The most common causes for motorcycle collisions were lane errors, speeding, impaired driving, and rider inattention with the majority of all fatal motorcycle crashes occurring between April and September, in dry conditions during daylight hours.

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