

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*

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

**Date:** October 17, 2009  
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## **Serious Injury Collision On SR 512 In Pierce County**

The October 17<sup>th</sup> incident occurred at 1:55 pm when the State Patrol responded to a four car collision westbound SR 512 just west of the Puyallup fairgrounds that was blocking two of the three lanes.

According to witnesses, 46 year-old Cynthia S. Rice of Enumclaw was driving a red 2004 Mini-Cooper west on SR 512. It was raining and witnesses advised that Rice was driving too fast for the conditions in the right lane. Traffic had slowed in front of her and she was unable to stop in time and tried to change into the lane to the left before striking the vehicle in front of her. Rice struck a white 1997 Pontiac driven by 18 year-old Mandalynn E. Summers of Buckley. Sadly, Summers sustained significant non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup.

Troopers contacted Rice, who was not injured, at the scene and believe through their investigation that she may have been impaired at the time of the collision. She was taken into custody and may be charged with Vehicular Assault.

Rice struck Summers vehicle which was pushed into a black 2002 Kia driven by 28 year-old Ricky W. Epler of Puyallup. Epler sustained minor injuries and was transported to Good Samaritan. Epler's vehicle was then pushed into a 2004 Ford driven by 25 year-old Jerrell M. Gosvenor of Puyallup. He and his female passenger were not injured.

Two of the three lanes were blocked for just over two hours for the investigation. The State Patrol would like to remind the motoring public that prescription and over the counter drugs may also cause impairment. When drivers are taking any medication they should pay close attention to any and all warnings and restrictions associated with that medicine.

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