

Milwaukie Police Department  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

On September 5, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. Milwaukie Police investigated a motor vehicle crash involving a freight train at a crossing at SE 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. and SE Railroad Ave. in Milwaukie.

A vehicle driven by an 83-year-old woman was westbound on SE Railroad Ave. and had just turned onto SE 37<sup>th</sup> southbound when it was struck by a westbound Union Pacific freight train. Early reports indicate that the woman ignored railroad crossing arms that were down and stopped the front of her vehicle on the tracks.

The impact rolled the vehicle, a 91 Lincoln Towncar onto it's top, trapping the woman inside. She was removed from the vehicle by fire personnel and was transported by Life Flight to OHSU with life threatening injuries.

Traffic around the crossing was diverted for at least four hours while the Clackamas County CRAFT team investigated the crash. The rail lines were also shut down until the train could be moved from the scene. Damage to the train was minor and rail traffic has resumed on the line.

The injured woman has been identified as Helen Barbara Burkart, 83 of Milwaukie. She is listed in serious but stable condition with multiple fractures, a severe heard injury and a spinal cord fracture as well as multiple cuts and bruises. She is expected to recover.

No other vehicles were involved in the crash and the investigation will continue.

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