

Medical condition may have led to crash at Denny's

Updated: March 7 10pm:

Police believe it's possible Todd Jackson, 28, suffered a medical emergency Thursday that resulted in his vehicle landing at the entrance of Denny's restaurant.

He was driving his sons to Tahoe Valley Elementary. The 11- and 8-year-old were treated and released from Barton Memorial Hospital.

Jackson suffered moderate injuries and was transported to Renown Medical Center in Reno for trauma care.

Jackson's vehicle was swerving across multiple lanes of traffic before crashing into the northeast corner of Denny's.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

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It was a grand slam breakfast of a different kind at Denny's in South Lake Tahoe on Thursday morning.

An SUV slammed into the building at the corner of Highway 50 and Al Tahoe Boulevard just after 8:30am.

Sgt. Shannon Laney, who is handling the incident, was not immediately available to provide details as he was still working the scene at 9am.



A vehicle took out the front of Denny's in South Lake Tahoe on March 7. Photo/Provided

Paul Schmidt, who owns the restaurant, told *Lake Tahoe News*, "It just happened so we are trying to figure out our next step."

He is waiting to hear what the fire department has to say as to whether the restaurant will be able to stay open.

This is not the first time Schmidt has had an incident beyond his control adversely affect his restaurant.

"I was just joking with my wife that my luck is not very good with that store," Schmidt said.

Schmidt bought the franchise in December 2007. Two weeks later a natural gas explosion closed the restaurant for several months. A couple people sustained minor injuries in that incident, whereas three people were taken to Barton Memorial Hospital with unknown injuries in the March 7 accident.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*