

Accident Christmas Morning Causes Power Outage, Leads to DWI Arrest

The Alternative Press Staff

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SPARTA, NJ - A driver was involved in a serious motor vehicle accident early this Christmas morning. He escaped injury, but the crash he caused closed Route 94 and knocked out power to homes in the area of Saddle Back Ridge and West Mountain Roads.

At 1:30 am, multiple 9-1-1 calls sent Sparta Police to Rte. 94 approximately 1/10th of a mile north of the Sussex County Technical School. Police found a utility pole with a power transformer attached had been sheared at its base and was blocking both lanes of Route 94.

The initial investigation conducted by Officer Frank Schomp has determined that a 2006 Porsche Cayennes operated by Carroll T. Quinn, 67, of Wantage, was traveling north when he lost control of his vehicle, swerving to the right, left the roadway and struck the utility pole.

When asked, Quinn told the officer that he was texting when he lost control of his car. Schomp also determined that Quinn had consumed alcoholic beverages and was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated a short time later. He was transported to police headquarters for processing and breath testing. Quinn was later charged with; DWI in a School Zone, Refusal to Submit to Breath Testing, Reckless Driving, Failure to Maintain a Single Lane of Travel and Texting While Driving. He was held in custody at the Sparta Police Department.

Power was out to approximately 75 homes. JCP&L was on the scene and anticipated restoring power within one-two hours. Route 94 was closed for at least the three hours as repairs were made. There was a significant amount of oil, typically contained within the transformer, that had been spilled across Route 94. Emergency crews on scene had to await the arrival of a Hazmat Team to commence with the clean-up. Corporals David Pridham and Mark Mastandrea assisted with investigation.