

4 vehicles tangle on I-20

By Laura Bond

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The Jaws of Life were used to free the driver of a Dodge Neon following a collision involving four vehicles Monday afternoon on Interstate 20 just west of the Rough Edge Road overpass.

The driver was airlifted to LSU Health Sciences Center, Shreveport with severe injuries.

According to a report by Ruston Police Lt. Stephen Beard, Foster Phillips, of Monroe, was driving a 1995 Ford Explorer eastbound on I-20, when for unknown reasons the vehicle crossed the median and struck a Dodge Neon driven by Carlan Coley, of West Monroe, who was traveling westbound.

Two other westbound vehicles — a 2008 Ford Focus driven by Draper Smith, of Killeen, Texas, and a 2003 Cadillac Escalade driven by Amada Flores-Rojo, of Alvin, Texas — also were involved, although RPD is still investigating the connection.

Ruston Fire Department Public Education Officer Eric Brazzel said rescue workers utilized the Jaws of Life to remove



Leader photo by LAURA BOND

Ruston Fire Department rescue workers utilize equipment to extricate an injured driver from a Dodge Neon following a collision on I-20 Monday.

both doors from the driver's side of the Dodge Neon and to roll the dashboard off Coley's legs inside the vehicle.

RFD and Pafford Ambulance transported a total of four patients to Northern Louisiana Medical Center, and Brazzel

said Coley was airlifted from there to LSU-Shreveport with critical injuries. The collision is still under investigation.