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An Eliot, Maine, firefighter uses a chain saw to clear a path to remove a Chevrolet Blazer that crashed into a wooded area off Route 236 on Friday night. The driver suffered minor injuries, police said.

Photo by Andrew Moore

SUV crashes off Route 236

By Joe Adler
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ELIOT, Maine - A blue Chevrolet Blazer, whose driver, according to investigators, may have been driving while intoxicated, careened off the side of Route 236 Friday night, and fire crews had to use a tow truck and cable to remove it from a cluster of trees.

The driver, a woman, who remained unidentified as of press time, was taken to York Hospital with what one officer

described as minor injuries, including cuts to her face.

The accident occurred between 8:30 and 9 p.m., according to Eliot Police Sgt. Steve Remick. Shortly after 9 o'clock, a crew, using chain saws, began cutting down nearby trees to remove the sport utility vehicle from the surrounding brush. Some branches had been knocked down by the force of the crash.

"We have a suspicion," said Remick in reference to the cause of the crash. "It appears to be alcohol-related."

Remick said the vehicle was traveling southbound toward Kittery when the driver lost control and suddenly crossed into the northbound lane and then into the ditch. No other vehicles were involved in the accident, and the driver was able to remove herself from the SUV without any help, Remick added.

The vehicle, bearing New Hampshire license plates, sustained major damage to its left side, including shattered glass and body damage, according to Remick.

The accident is still under investigation.

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