

TIMMINS — Icy Highway 101 has claimed more victims.

But witnesses were astounded Tuesday afternoon when five people involved in a gruesome-looking head-on collision on the increasingly dangerous stretch of highway suffered only minor injuries.

Amazingly, the most serious injury in the 80 kilometre-per-hour accident was a broken ankle suffered by David Sassevillie, 25, of Timmins, who was driving with Lucille Legault, 20, of Timmins. Legault suffered a broken nose.

The passengers in the other vehicle — Rene Theriault, 45, Lucille Theriault, 42, and Carolyn Theriault, 12, all of Monteith, suffered a variety of minor injuries ranging from cuts to bruises and contusions.

All the victims were taken to Timmins District Hospital for treatment.

The accident took place about 10 kilometres east of Highway 67.

"It is incredible no one was injured more seriously," said OPP Const. Jean-Marc St. Jacques, as he inspected the twisted wreckage that was once two cars.

St. Jacques said that once again, an accident on Highway 101 can be attributed to bad



road conditions.

"One of the cars lost control and crossed into the centre lane, head-on into the other car," he said. "I don't think there was excessive speed involved. The damage looks consistent with an 80- to 90 kilometre-an-hour impact."

The Legault car was returning home from a vacation trip to Florida.

Police and the Timmins and Whitney Fire Departments re-

sponded quickly to the emergency call, which they received about 4:30 p.m.

Firefighters had to use the Jaws of Life to free the victims from their mangled vehicles.

Two ambulances rushed the five people to Timmins District Hospital.

It was the fourth serious motor vehicle accident in the immediate area in just over a week, and the third on Highway 101.

On Monday, Rollande Ray of Cochrane was killed and two passengers injured when their car was in collision with an oncoming tractor-trailer just outside of South Porcupine.

On Jan. 17, Franciscus Van Poppel of Haileybury was killed in a similar accident near the Kidd Creek Met Site.

Christopher Bavage of North Bay, a passenger in Poppel's car, died later in the week.

St. Jacques said while the

road conditions were certainly to blame for these accidents, people have to adjust their driving in extreme weather conditions.

"It has been very, very cold lately, and sand is not sticking to the road as it should," St. Jacques said.

"The road may look a lot better than it actually is. You have to keep that in mind."