

# Vehicle demolishes fitness club

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The vehicle continued through the foyer, then it "took out the wall, drywall and door of the room she (the employee) was sitting in and struck her there," said Davies.

The victim was pinned underneath the 2006 Ford Expedition when it came to a stop, nearly exiting through the rear of the building at Mountainview Rd. and Guelph St. It took Halton Hills firefighters about 45 minutes to extricate the woman from the SUV's undercarriage, said Davies.

Bahm said her husband Brian was in his office at the rear of the building by the daycare, which was empty, at the time.

"He heard a bang, he looked up, and saw an SUV go by his door," said Bahm.

Davies said the driver, 33, had come out of the neighbouring Royal Bank, which shares the parking lot with other businesses, and "for unknown reasons at this time" rear-ended a parked vehicle in the parking lot causing minor damage."

Davies said the driver then "accelerated forward, again out of control, and went through the glass window of the gym."

The driver's 19-month-old son was in the vehicle with her. Neither was injured. Davies said the driver was fully co-operative with police and provided a statement.

The injured employee was going to be airlifted to Sunnybrook in an ORNGE air ambulance from Georgetown Hospital but due to the severe thunderstorm at the time the helicopter wasn't permitted to take off. Instead, she was taken by land ambulance to the Toronto hospital with the aid of Halton, OPP and Toronto Police Service escorts.

Bahm said Wednesday that the woman had surgery Tuesday evening and remained in ICU. Police said Tuesday she was in stable condition with serious injuries.

Lisa McMaster, of nearby Field Performance Group, had a bird's-eye view of the rescue in which the Atlantis employee was freed from the back window of the fitness centre.

"It took about 45 minutes to free her, and they brought her out— she was still in



A photo of the back office where the SUV came to rest shows the extent of the damage. Photo courtesy Elaina Bahm

the black leather office chair. She was conscious and moving her hands and feet."

Bahm said the gym, located in the basement, wasn't busy at the time of the crash. She said two men who were working out, rushed upstairs when they heard the bang and tried to get to the injured employee.

Due to exposed electrical wires and water from the storm, hydro was shut off to the entire building impacting other tenants in the plaza, said Davies.

Town building inspectors and structural engineers did a preliminary check of the building and ordered no one re-enter until further detailed inspections were done.

Police have seized the vehicle to conduct a full mechanical inspection and will be downloading the vehicle's Crash Data Retrieval module.

Davies said alcohol was not a factor in the collision.

"The focus of our investigation will be narrowing it down to whether it's driver error or mechanical failure," said Davies. Police are appealing to witnesses to call 905-878-5511 ext. 5065.

Bahm said Wednesday morning they did not yet know the extent of the damage.

"We're hoping to have the gym open within a week," she said.

"The members have been great. Thank you for your prayers and concern," said Bahm.

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