

Firefighters examine a Honda that crossed through a median from southbound Hwy. 404 into the northbound lanes Friday afternoon. The Honda struck a minivan, which hit another van. Northbound lanes were closed into the afternoon rush hour.



STAFF PHOTO/TOM BARNETT

Driver airlifted from 404 crash scene

A serious accident snarled afternoon rush hour traffic northbound on Hwy. 404 near Major Mackenzie Drive Friday and sent two drivers to hospital.

The driver of a black Honda Civic got on the highway southbound at Elgin Mills around 2:30 p.m. and in attempting to merge into traffic, hit the guard rail and lost control.

The vehicle crossed all three lanes of traffic and drove into the median ditch.

OPP Const. Dave Woodford said the car was airborne when it came out of the ditch and entered the northbound lane, striking a minivan. The minivan then crashed into a van, which careened onto the shoulder.

The driver of the Honda

was seriously injured and airlifted to Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre in Toronto.

The driver of the minivan was taken to Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket with less serious injuries, but the van's driver and passenger managed to walk away from the crash.

The mangled vehicles were strewn across Hwy. 404 closing it to traffic from Major Mackenzie Friday afternoon.

At 3 p.m. Const. Woodford said investigators would need two to three hours on the scene before the wreckage could be removed and the northbound lanes opened back up.

—Martin Derbyshire

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