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## Five students hurt, two seriously when semi smacks into school bus



*Photos Provided By FHP*

**By Jeff M. Hardison © March 30, 2022 at 11:12 p.m.**

**LEVY COUNTY** -- Five of the 10 students on a Levy County school bus this afternoon (Wednesday, March 30) were injured and taken to Shands, according to information provided by the Florida Highway Patrol.

Two of those five school bus passengers suffered serious injuries, the FHP said.

A 2012 Thomas School Bus, owned by the Levy County School Board, was northbound on U.S. Highway 19 at Southeast 140th Lane at 3:46 p.m. on March 30, the FHP said.



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The school bus was driven by a 56-year-old woman from Inglis, the FHP said. She suffered minor injuries, the FHP said.

That intersection is near the Village Pines RV Campground, which is on the east side of U.S. 19, a bit north of the Florida Sheriffs Association's Camp Caruth, which is on the west side of U.S. 19.



A northbound 2019 International semi tractor-trailer was behind the school bus, the FHP said.

The semi with "Denmark Cargo Solutions" as a logo on its door was driven by a 34-year-old man from Seffner, the FHP said. He was not injured in the crash, the FHP said.

Both vehicles were northbound in the outside lane of U.S. 19, the FHP said. The school bus had stopped to discharge one or more riders, the FHP said. The school bus had its red lights activated, the

FHP said.

For an unknown reason or reasons, the FHP said, the driver of the semi failed to stop, before the right side of the truck and the front side of the trailer hit the rear of the school bus.

As of May of 2020, the Florida Highway Patrol stopped providing names of people and some other information from crashes as part of its press releases.

Prior to May of 2020, the FHP formerly provided that information via those public records in its press releases.

The FHP and some other law enforcement agencies in Florida are abiding by a version of something known as "Marcy's Law" of California, which is allegedly used to protect victims of crimes. The Florida version of "Marcy's Law" was adopted after Florida voters chose to change the *Florida Constitution* to exempt more public records from view.

Although not every vehicle crash involves crime victims, which may have been the legislative intent of the Florida version of "Marcy's Law" approved by voters, the FHP adopted its current blanket exclusion of some information as part of its process in sending press releases.

Although the FHP adopted this new practice, not every law enforcement agency has done so.

For instance, the Chiefland Police Department, the St. Petersburg Police Department and the Ocala Police Department all have provided crash information in press releases or traffic crash reports, except when there is an actual victim of a crime, as demonstrated in the reports provided to the press since the onset of the FHP's revision in its press release practices in May of 2020.

## **Crash Report Purchasing**

<https://services.flhsmv.gov/CrashReportPurchasing/>

## **Florida Crash Data**

<https://www.flhsmv.gov/traffic-crash-reports/crash-dashboard/>

## **Victims' Rights Information**

<https://www.flhsmv.gov/victimsrights/>