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WOMAN RESCUES PAIR FROM CAR FIRE AUTO HIT POLE IN EDGEWATER

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EDGEWATER A Cliffside Park woman was credited with rescuing a seriously injured man and woman early Sunday morning when she pulled them from a burning car on River Road.

The rescuer, attorney Susan Lask, said she was a passenger in another car when she came upon the wreckage about 3:30 a.m. The car had crashed into a telephone pole near her hometown of Cliffside Park.

"They were both unconscious and the car was on fire from underneath," said Lask.

Lask said she jumped out to pull them from the wreckage while a friend called 911 for help. "I didn't want to see them die in a fire," she said.

"My mother yelled at me today that the car could have exploded, but I never thought about it at the time," she said.

The driver, Janice Siri, 26, of Cliffside Park, was trapped in the burning car by an airbag, Lask said. After having difficulty getting the driver's side door open, Lask screamed for the unconscious woman to wake up and help push the door open.

The man, Sean McHale, 24, of Ridgefield, whose head had hit the windshield, also was unconscious and would not wake up, Lask said. She finally was able to pull him out and drag him away from the burning car, she said.

The Cliffside Park police arrived on the scene and put out the car fire, police said Sunday.

Siri, who was driving a 1990 Chevrolet, reported that she was driving north on River Road when she swerved to avoid another car and lost control of her vehicle, said Edgewater Police Lt. Ed Goodwin.

Both Siri and McHale were taken to Palisade General Hospital. Siri was treated and released Sunday, but McHale was admitted and is in stable condition, hospital officials said.

INDEX REFERENCES

Language: EN

OTHER INDEXING: (CLIFFSIDE PARK; EDGEWATER; PALISADE GENERAL HOSPITAL) (CAR FIRE AUTO HIT POLE; Ed Goodwin; Edgewater Police; Janice Siri; Lask; McHale; Sean McHale; Siri; Susan Lask; WOMAN RESCUES PAIR) (EDGEWATER; MOTOR VEHICLE; ACCIDENT; FIRE; RESCUE)