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Varsity workers and driver cheat death in highway crash

JITRA: Eight female Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) staff members and the driver in a van cheated death when their vehicle rammed into the back of a double-decker express bus before the Jitra toll plaza here.

Seven of them sustained serious injuries in the incident at 7.20am yesterday at KM30 of the North-South Expressway (north-bound).

They were driver Mohd Esman Osman, 54, as well as UUM staff members Zurina Yahya, 43; Alina Mahdzir, 46; Wan Merina Wan Saad, 51; Haslina Mohamed Shah,

39; Norhaneeza Nordin, 42, and Nelwati Abidin, 39.

Esman's wife Hasliza Shafe, 50, and Noorazura Othman, 41, received outpatient treatment.

Hasliza, who was seated at the back of the van, said: "The front passengers were thrown to the back and most of them hit me."

Kubang Pasu OCPD Supt Ibrahim Mohamed Yusoff said the express bus was slowing down to pay toll when the van rammed into it.

"Five passengers were trapped under their seats after the accident," he said, adding that none of the bus passengers was hurt.



Brought to safety: Jitra Fire and Rescue Department personnel members rescuing the driver from the van at the crash site on the North-South Expressway in Jitra.