

- Daily Leader staff report

A Liberal man was taken to the hospital for treatment after the car he was driving was hit Wednesday by a semi at the junction of U.S. Highway 54 and Seward County Road "R" east of Liberal.

Both vehicles were traveling eastbound on Hwy. 54 at 5:25 p.m. when Mario Mendoza, 27, slowed to turn left onto Road "R" in his 1998 Mercury Mystique. The semi behind Mendoza also slowed, according to a report from the Kansas Highway Patrol, but began to pass Mendoza on the left just as Mendoza tried to turn left. The 2000 Freightliner semi, driven by 65-year-old Charles G. Miller, of Stinnet, Texas, hit Mendoza's vehicle in the driver's side of the Mercury.

Mendoza's condition was not available from Southwest Medical Center as of press time this morning.

Miller was not injured in the incident, and both drivers were wearing seat restraints, according to the report.

Two other passengers in Mendoza's car were also not injured. KHP reported Carlos Mendoza-Salias, 25, and Jorge Alberto Lopez, 17, were not harmed and they, too, were using seat belts.