



**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

A scary minute or two was likely felt by Morel M. Chavez-Calzadiars Monday morning as he lost control of his tractor trailer, which then slid off a county road.

According to the report, one of the wheels on the 2004 Peterbilt Chavez Trucking rig hit a berm piled in the middle of 331 Avenue, pulling the truck across the berm, which then took out a county bridge's guardrail before coming to rest in the ditch on the west side of the road.

The county was working on the road at the time of the accident.

Chase County Chief Deputy Mike Dukes said the tractor trailer, which was not loaded, did not tip over, but ended up jack-knifed in the west ditch.

Chavez-Calzadiars, 43, was alone in the rig and was traveling south on the county road about six miles southwest of Imperial when the accident occurred.

Dukes estimated damage at \$45,000, about \$30,000 of it to the tractor and another \$15,000 to the trailer.



The rig's owner/operator was transported by ambulance to Chase County Community Hospital and had minor injuries, according to the deputy.

The rig was eventually pulled out and towed off by Sinner's Body Shop of Wauneta. The road was blocked while the removal was underway, Dukes said.

The damaged bridge was flagged with warning barriers by county workers and they will remain until the guardrail can be repaired, he added.

Along with Imperial EMS, the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department was also on the scene to assist, and watered down the immediate area where the tractor trailer came to rest.