Eight injured in two separate crashes

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A 20-year-old man is facing drunk driving charges after he allegedly rear-ended a taxi and sent a passenger from his car through the windshield.

The passenger, whose injuries were first thought to be life-threatening, is in hospital and has been upgraded to serious but stable condition.

The crash was the first of two serious collisions overnight where emergency crews brought eight people to hospital and had to perform two extrications.

The more serious incident happened at 2:14 a.m Saturday in the 9300 block of Macleod Trail.

Police say the taxi, which had no clients in it, was waiting to enter the Ranchman's parking lot when it was rear-ended by an Acura Integra carrying four people.

One male passenger in his 20s was ejected through the windshield and fire crews had to rescue one person who was stuck in the back seat.

"Alcohol is believed to have been a factor in this incident but speed was not a factor," said duty inspector Keith Cain.

"We have the driver of the Acura Integra in custody."

EMS says the other two passengers suffered serious injuries that are not considered life-threatening. The driver was taken to hospital in stable condition.

The taxi driver suffered minor injuries.

The man who was ejected was not believed to be wearing a seatbelt.

Joseph Raymond Leblanc, 20, faces two counts of impaired driving causing bodily harm and two counts of dangerous driving causing bodily harm.

The second crash happened at 2:45 a.m. on 16th Avenue N.E. above Deerfoot Trail in a collision that involved a Honda, with four occupants, and an Acura, with just the driver inside.

Two people were stuck in the Honda and firefighters had to remove the roof of the Honda to free them.

Three people were taken to hospital with injuries that are not considered life-threatening.