 Residents stop DUI crash man bolting

STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS: NEWSBREAKER Michele Chidgey got these shots of a crash and arrest that occurred in suburban Karama on Thursday

By NADJA HAINKE

AN OUT-of-control drink-driver who crashed his car in a residential area in Darwin was stopped from fleeing the scene by local residents.

About 30 people circled the man as he climbed out of his wrecked Toyota Landcruiser troop carrier and tried to desert the scene.

He was then held by off-duty police officer.

The driver allegedly returned a high range blood alcohol reading of .212 — four times the legal limit.

Police said the man was driving around Kalymnos Drive into Applegum Drive in Karama when his car flipped on its passenger side about 4.15pm on Thursday.

The crash smashed the car's windscreen and caused severe panel damage — but left the driver unharmed.

The man allegedly crawled out of the window on the driver's side and tried to get away when the off-duty officer held on to the man.

"A gentlemen stopped him and sat him down, I think the gentlemen was on the phone trying to ring police," crash witness Michele Chidgey, 46, said.

"The driver was trying to get up but this guy had a very fixed grip on him, holding him down.

The office administrator said she just returned home from work when she heard the squeaking tyres and a loud bang.

She said she and dozens of neighbours ran outdoors where they discovered the crash.

Police, St John Ambulance and fire and rescue crews attended the crash.

A 26-year-old man was arrested and bailed to appear in court on February 11.

Police watch commander Senior Sergeant Craig Ryan said the off-duty-officer's actions were a good example of the NT Police.

"Police are required to perform their duty whether they are off or on duty," he said.