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INCORPORATING TOWCESTER

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# 'Stupid' drivers blasted over M1 crash pictures

BY LAUREN ARCHELL  
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**EIGHTY drivers who took snaps of a horrific crash on the M1 have been condemned as 'stupid' and 'macabre' by a motoring organisation.**

Police from the Collision Investigation Team caught motorists, heading northbound, 'phone-necking' between junction 15a and 16 in Northants on June 14, as emergency crews attended a serious collision.

A lorry had hit an empty stationary vehicle and overturned leaving a female driver, 21, trapped for hours with the road closed even longer.

Sergeant Nick Gray from the Collision Investigation Unit, said: "Because of how badly the driver was trapped, we had a period of four hours before we could continue with our work while the emergency services tried to free the victim.

"After witnessing the number of people using mobile phones, we decided to use a camera to film motorists travelling on the opposite carriageway. During a four

hour period, 80 drivers were captured."

He added: "The drivers photographed showed a total disregard for the law and the devastation which would be caused to their own or another family in a fatal road traffic collision.

"I am astounded that people not only use their mobile phones to talk on while driving, but would also use them to take pictures, especially at the scene of such a serious road traffic collision.

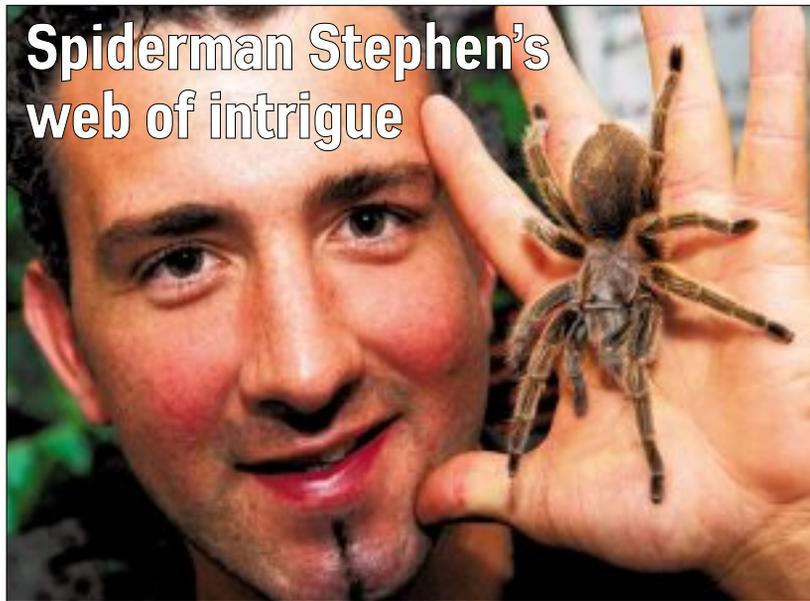
On this occasion, Northamptonshire Police have decided to not to prosecute the drivers that were caught.

When asked why, a spokesman for the police said: "The decision not to prosecute was taken in a bid to educate the drivers about the consequences of their actions.

"However, we have written to the owners of the vehicles where the driver found was using a camera and a formal number, including photographic evidence, will be retained. That

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## Spiderman Stephen's web of intrigue



THERE were visitors of the creepy variety at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery yesterday.

Herpetologist Stephen Rowlands, from Company Tropical Inc, brought a few exotic 'friends' along including, tarantulas, scorpions, cockroaches, millipedes, African land snails, locusts and mealworms.

It allowed guests to get up close and personal with the creatures and find out more about where they are from.

The event was part of the museum's Minibeasts exhibition which is showing until August 26.

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