

Carnage as runaway truck smashes through suburbia

A retired couple's hopes of a dream holiday were shattered when a runaway lorry smashed into their caravan.

The 30-foot wagon, whose driver was seen sprinting after it, hurtled down Dradishaw Road in Silsden crashing into the caravan, five cars, three walls and a compressor, before demolishing a lamp post and landing through a garden wall at about 10.45am on Monday.

The caravan, which has now been written off, had extensive damage to both front and back and had been spun more than 90 degrees by the lorry, with the impact forcing it through a neighbour's wall.

It is believed the driver had been delivering fridges to the Gables nursing home in Skipton Road.

Raymond Clarkson, of Dradishaw Road, and whose red Peugeot 406 was damaged, said: "The wagon driver was just running behind the lorry but was never going to catch it."

Soraya Ahad, 21, who works during university holidays at Dradishaw House Private Day Nursery, saw her blue Nissan Sunny hit and wrecked. She said: "I wish I'd walked to work. Someone came in and said there had been some small damage to my car, but obviously it's been a bit more than that."

Also involved in the incident was David Green, whose company was installing a crossing on the road for disabled people on behalf of Bradford Council. Mr Green said: "I heard a loud banging and saw the lorry coming towards my Land Rover. I jumped in it and managed to move it, but it still caught the end of it and also the compressor, which is completely bust now."

Police closed off Dradishaw Road for around two hours. A police spokesman said: "Police are treating the incident as five separate road traffic collisions and enquiries into how it occurred are on-going."

Fire crews from Silsden were also called to clear away the debris.

The driver of the vehicle refused to comment and would not reveal the name of his company.