

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | August 18, 2021

## **Steele County Fatal Crash**

**What:** Two Vehicle Fatal Crash

**Where:** Highway 32, MM 104.5 (12.5 miles south of Finley)

**When:** August 18, 2021, 6:30 AM

**Road Conditions:** Dry

**Weather Conditions:** Clear with light wind

**Crash Involvement:** Two vehicles

**Type of Crash:** Head-on impact

**Agencies Involved:** NDHP, Steele County Sheriff, Hope Ambulance, Hope Fire Department

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2002 Chevrolet Avalanche

**Driver No. 1:** Male, 35; Lisbon, ND; Fatal

**Restraints:** Unknown

**Charges:** None

**Vehicle No. 2:** 2014 Peterbilt Tractor

**Driver No. 2:** Ernest Matelski, 54; Hillsboro, ND; No Injury

**Restraints:** Seat Belt

**Charges:** None

**NARRATIVE:** The Peterbilt was traveling southbound on Highway 32 and the Chevrolet was traveling northbound. Near MM 104.5, the Chevrolet crossed over the center line and into the southbound lane. The Chevrolet struck the Peterbilt head-on. The semi with loaded trailer continued into the west ditch traveling south. The Chevrolet entered the east ditch rolling onto its top and catching fire. The driver of the Chevrolet was pronounced deceased on the scene by the Steele County coroner. The driver of the Peterbilt was not injured.

The crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

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