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.

For more information contact: Sgt. Ben Kennelly 701-328-1081, bkennell@nd.gov