

UPDATED NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | July 4, 2021

Fatality Crash - Grand Forks County, North Dakota **UPDATED**

What: Fatality Crash

Where: US Highway 2 & Airport Road ~ 3 ½ Miles West of Grand Forks, North Dakota

When: July 2, 2021 @ 7:36 A.M.

Road Conditions: Good, active construction work zone where both eastbound and westbound motor vehicle traffic are head-to-head occupying the normal eastbound lanes of US Highway 2. The westbound lanes of US Highway 2 are closed and currently under construction.

Weather Conditions: Clear, Sunny

Crash Involvement: 8 Vehicle

Type of Crash: Rear-end

Agencies Involved: North Dakota Highway Patrol, University of North Dakota Police Department, Grand Forks County Sheriff Department, Grand Forks Police Department, Altru Ambulance Service, Interstate Towing & Recovery

Charges: Crash is under investigation and no charges have yet been determined.

Vehicle No. 1: 1998 Volvo truck pulling belly dump trailer loaded with asphalt hot mix
Driver No. 1: Steven Piechowski; male; age 54; of Felton, MN; injured
Restraints: Seat belt not in use, no air bag

Vehicle No. 2: 2006 Chevrolet Malibu
Driver No. 2: Eric Jayne; male; age 61; of Des Moines, IA; deceased
Restraints: Seat belt in use, air bags deployed

Passenger No. 1: Sally Cooper Smith; female; age 61; of Des Moines, IA; non-life-threatening injuries

Restraints: Seat belt in use, air bags deployed

Vehicle No. 3: 2011 Ford F-150 pulling boat

Driver No. 3: Todd Petry; male; age 57; of Waterville, MN; non-life-threatening injuries

Restraints: Seat belt in use, air bags deployed

Passenger No. 1: Jeffrey Grams; male; age 56; of Hudson, IA; uninjured

Restraints: Seat belt in use, air bags deployed

Passenger No. 2: Juvenile male; non-life-threatening injuries

Restraints: Seat belt not worn

Passenger No. 3: Skyler Petry; male; age 25; of Waterville, MN; uninjured

Restraints: Seat belt not worn

Vehicle No. 4: 2018 Dodge Caravan

Driver No. 4: Jeanne Waters; female; age 51; of Larimore, ND; non-life-threatening injuries

Restraints: Seat belt in use

Vehicle No. 5: 2018 Toyota Tundra pulling boat

Driver No. 5: Jeffrey Dunbar; male; age 51; of Arkansas, WI; non-life-threatening injuries

Restraints: Seat belt not worn, air bags deployed

Passenger No. 1: Melissa Dunbar; female; age 52; of Arkansaw, WI; non-life-threatening injuries

Restraints: Seat belt in use, air bags deployed

Passenger No. 2: Jake Dunbar; male; age 24; of Arkansaw, WI; non-life-threatening injuries

Restraints: Seat belt in use

Passenger No. 3: Sarah Dunbar; female; age 19; of Arkansaw, WI; non-life-threatening injuries

Restraints: Seat belt not worn

Vehicle No. 6: 2018 Toyota RAV4

Driver No. 6: Hillene Cantos; female; age 39; of Devils Lake, ND; non-life-threatening injuries

Restraints: Seat belt in use, air bags deployed

Passenger No. 1: Jennyvie Ariola; female; age 37; of Devils Lake, ND; non-life-threatening injuries

Restraints: Seat belt in use, air bags deployed

Vehicle No. 7: 2014 Chevrolet Silverado pulling enclosed utility trailer

Driver No. 7: Karl Koehmstedt; male; age 57; of Rugby, ND; uninjured

Restraints: Seat belt in use

Vehicle No. 8: 2011 Honda Pilot
Driver No. 8: Brenda Coble; female; age 49; of Grand Forks; uninjured
Restraints: Seat belt in use

Passenger No. 1: Juvenile male; uninjured
Restraints: Seat belt in use

NARRATIVE: On July 2, 2021, at approximately 7:28 A.M. an eastbound semi-tractor towing a bottom dump trailer was reported as swerving and traveling on the rumble strips, or edge line of the eastbound lane of US Highway 2 at mile marker 349.00. Approximately eight minutes after receiving the initial call for service, several emergency calls were received of a crash involving multiple motor vehicles located at the intersection of US Highway 2 and Airport Road west of Grand Forks.

Vehicles 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 were stopped or slowed on the west side of the intersection of US Highway 2 and Airport Road, waiting to travel east. Vehicle 1, a Volvo truck tractor with belly dump trailer driven by Piechowski, was traveling east approaching the intersection. Piechowski failed to stop his vehicle, and the front of the Volvo struck the rear of Vehicle 2 and traveled into the group of stopped vehicles. The Volvo eventually ran off the road into the south ditch.

Jayne died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. Several other drivers and motor vehicle occupants were injured and were transported by ambulance to Altru Hospital in Grand Forks for non-life-threatening injuries of varying degree sustained in the crash.

US Highway 2 in the area of the crash was closed to all motor vehicle traffic for approximately 6 hours for crash scene investigation and crash scene clean-up. All motor vehicles involved sustained disabling damage and were towed from the crash scene.

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

For More Information Contact:

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