

Leonard Serious Injury Crash – 7 injured

What: Serious Injury Crash

Where: ND Highway 18 mile marker 64, 6 miles north of Leonard, ND

When: October 22th, 2021 at 9:31 PM.

Road Conditions: Normal

Weather Conditions: dry

Crash Involvement: Vehicle/Vehicle

Type of Crash: Head on

Agencies Involved: North Dakota Highway Patrol, Cass County Sheriff's Office, Casselton Ambulance Service, Lisbon Ambulance Service, Casselton Fire Department, Leonard Fire Department, and Sanford AirMed.

Vehicle No. 1: 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee

Driver No. 1: Abraham Lara Cruz, 18-year-old male, Melrose, MN, injured

Restraints: Seatbelt worn; airbags deployed

Charges: Overtaking where prohibited, Failure to Maintain Control - Distracted Driving.

Passenger No. 1: Kevin Martinez, 18-year-old male, Melrose, MN, injured

Restraints: Seatbelt worn; airbags deployed

Passenger No. 2: Christopher Carillo Juarez, 18-year-old male, Melrose, MN, injured

Restraints: Seatbelt worn; airbags deployed

Passenger No. 3: Geraldo Chavez, 19-year-old male, Melrose, MN, injured

Restraints: Seatbelt worn; airbags deployed

Passenger No. 4: Brandon Montanez Garcia, 18-year-old male, Melrose, MN, injured

Restraints: Seatbelt worn; airbags deployed

Vehicle No. 2: 1996 Dodge Caravanx
Driver No. 2: Jaylin Parras, 18-year-old female, Georgetown, MN, injured
Restraints: Seatbelt worn, airbags deployed
Charges: None

Passenger No. 1: 16-year-old juvenile female, Moorhead, MN, injured
Restraints: Seatbelt worn; airbags deployed

NARRATIVE: The Jeep Grand Cherokee, driven by Cruz, was south bound on ND Highway 18 at mile marker 64. The Dodge Caravan driven by Parras was northbound at the same location. This location was marked no passing and on a curve.

A southbound motorist had stopped at and was waiting to turn left onto a gravel road. Cruz was distracted by his GPS and did not realize traffic had stopped in front of him. Cruz drove into the NB lane to avoid a rear end crash. The Dodge Caravan was north bound and the front passenger side bumper struck the Caravan's front bumper.

The Jeep entered the east ditch of Highway 18 and rolled, coming to rest on its passenger side. The Dodge came to rest in the middle of the roadway. Both vehicles suffered heavy damage and were totaled in the collision. The juvenile passenger from the Caravan was extricated by Fire and Rescue and then flown by Sanford AirMed to Sanford Hospital in Fargo. Parras and all occupants of the Jeep were taken by ambulance to Sanford Hospital in Fargo. None of the injuries appear life threatening.

The juvenile will not be identified by the NDHP. Cruz was cited for Overtaking Where Prohibited and Failure to Maintain Control – Distracted Driving. The crash remains under investigation by the NDHP.

For More Information Contact:

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