

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | September 22, 2021

Multiple Crashes on I-94 on Grant Marsh Bridge - Bismarck

What: Multi-Vehicle Injury Crashes

Where: I-94, Grant Marsh Bridge, Bismarck

When: September 20, 2021 at 4:23 p.m. central time

Road Conditions: Good

Weather Conditions: Sunny

Crash Involvement: Vehicle vs Vehicle

Type of Crash: Rear-end

Agencies Involved: North Dakota Highway Patrol

Crash One

Vehicle No. 1: 2013, Chevrolet, Traverse

Driver No. 1: Dennis Doll, Male, 72, Bismarck, ND, uninjured

Restraints: Seatbelt

Charges: Pending

Passenger No. 1: Janet Pinks, Female, 74, Bismarck, ND, uninjured

Restraints: Seatbelt

Vehicle No. 2: 2017, Hyundai, Elantra

Driver No. 2: Willard Desjarlais III, Male, 40, Menoken, ND, uninjured

Restraints: Seatbelt

Charges: None

Vehicle No. 3: 2019, Toyota, Highlander

Driver No. 3: June Schettler, Female, 66, Garrison, ND, minor injuries

Restraints: Seatbelt

Charges: None

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Crash Two

Vehicle No. 1: 2000, Mitsubishi, Galant,
Driver No. 1: Mickey Frost, Male, 67, Bismarck, ND, uninjured
Restraints: Seatbelt
Charges: Pending

Vehicle No. 2: 2017, Dodge, Durango
Driver No. 2: Janine Wetzel, Female, 52, New Salem, ND, uninjured
Restraints: Seatbelt
Charges: None

Vehicle No. 3: 2018, Chevrolet, Equinox
Driver No. 3: Bertha Appert, Female, 72, Bismarck, ND, minor injuries
Restraints: Seatbelt
Charges: None

NARRATIVE: North Dakota Highway Patrol troopers were conducting a traffic stop on the shoulder of the westbound lane of I-94, just east of the Grant Marsh Bridge in Bismarck at 4:23 p.m. CT, September 20, 2021. Trooper squad vehicles had the emergency lights activated which required motorists to move over or slow down prior to passing the stopped emergency vehicles. Willard Desjarlais, driving a blue Hyundai Elantra, was traveling west, and slowed to pass the stopped emergency vehicles. The Elantra was struck in the rear by a Chevrolet Traverse, operated by Dennis Doll. Doll's Traverse was then struck in the rear by a Toyota Highlander, driven by June Schettler. The Traverse came to rest in the middle of both lanes, straddling the centerline and blocking both westbound lanes. Schettler's Highlander came to rest facing south, blocking the shoulder and part of the right lane. Desjarlais was able to move his Elantra out of the roadway and park on the shoulder.

Bertha Appert, driving a Chevrolet Equinox, stopped behind the initial crash. A Dodge Durango, operated by Janine Wetzel, stopped behind Appert's vehicle. Mickey Frost, operating a Mitsubishi Galant, failed to stop, and struck the rear of Wetzel's Durango, pushing it into Appert's Equinox. The three vehicles: Equinox, Durango, and Galant; all came to rest in the left lane facing east.

Traffic was diverted to Expressway while troopers and wrecker services cleared the scene, approximately one hour. Only minor injuries reported, one individual was transported to CHI St. Alexius Hospital by Metro Ambulance, for evaluation.

For More Information Contact:

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