

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | September 26, 2021

## I-29 Double Fatality Crash - Updated

**What:** Two vehicle crash, two fatalities

**Where:** I-29 MP 53, 7 miles south of Fargo.

**When:** Sunday, 09/26/2021, approximately 1:16 AM CDT

**Road Conditions:** Good

**Weather Conditions:** Clear/Normal

**Crash Involvement:** 2-vehicle

**Type of Crash:** Head on

**Agencies Involved:** North Dakota Highway Patrol, Cass County Sheriff's Department, Kindred Ambulance, FM Ambulance, Horace Fire Department, Kindred Fire Department, Sanford AirMed.

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2011 Chevrolet Silverado

**Driver No. 1:** Ricky Allen Pender; male; age 66; of Moorhead, MN; fatality

**Restraints:** Seatbelt not worn, airbag deployed

**Charges:** None

**Passenger No. 1:** Michele Dawn Pender; female; age 55, of Moorhead, MN; seriously injured

**Restraints:** Seatbelt not worn; airbags deployed

**Vehicle No. 2:** 2015 Ford Expedition

**Driver No. 2:** Skylur Herman Koch; male; age 27; of Fargo, ND; fatality.

**Restraints:** Seatbelt worn, airbags deployed

**Charges:** None

**Passenger No. 1:** David Thomas Mord; male; age 38, of Fargo, ND; seriously injured

**Restraints:** Seatbelt worn, airbags deployed

**Passenger No. 2:** Andrew Lee Kainpe; male; age 32; of Fargo, ND; seriously injured

**Restraints:** Not restrained, airbags deployed.

**NARRATIVE:** The Expedition, driven by Koch, was southbound on I-29 and the Silverado, driven by Pender, was northbound. This area is under road construction and I-29 was head-to-head traffic. The Silverado crossed the center and struck the Expedition head on. The Expedition was spun around and came to rest in the median and the Silverado coming to rest in the middle of the roadway. Koch and Pender suffered fatal injuries and were killed in the collision. The female passenger, Michele Pender, was removed from inside the Silverado and was transported by ambulance to Essentia Health in Fargo. Mord, a passenger of the Expedition, was taken by Sanford AirMed to Sanford Hospital in Fargo. The other Expedition passenger, Andrew Kainpe, was taken by Ambulance to Essentia Health. Both vehicles were totaled in the collision. I-29 was closed for several hours while the crash was investigated with traffic diverted to Cass County Road 81.

From 1530 to 1600 on 09/26/2021 I-29 was closed for investigators to reconstruct the crash scene. NDDOT and the Cass County Sheriff's Office assisted with detouring the traffic to Cass County Road 81.

---

**For More Information Contact:**

**Sgt. Jed Dahnke** 701-328-1081  
jdahnke@nd.gov