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