

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | August 27, 2022

***UPDATE* 3 VEHICLE FATAL CRASH**

What: 3 Vehicle Fatal Crash involving a School Bus
Where: ND 200, 1/2 mile east of Picardville, at mile marker 221
When: 3:40 PM Central Time
Road Conditions: Dry, asphalt, good summer driving condition
Weather Conditions: Mostly cloudy sky, 75 degrees, 10 mph winds
Crash Involvement: Passenger car, 3/4 ton pickup towing a trailer, school activity bus
Type of Crash: Head on
Agencies Involved: North Dakota Highway Patrol
Sheridan County Sheriff's Office
McLean County Sheriff's Office
Mercer Rural Fire Department
McClusky Rural Fire Department
Goodrich Fire Department
North Dakota Department of Transportation

Vehicle No. 1: Tan, 2004 Chevrolet Impala
Driver No. 1: Danelle Germain, 35, Harvey, ND, Fatal
Restraints: Not in use
Charges: None

Vehicle No. 2: White 1997 Ford F250
Driver No. 2: David Leroy, 79, Underwood, ND Not Injured
Restraints: Seatbelt in use
Charges: None

Vehicle No. 3: White 2016 Chevrolet Express Van (School Bus)
Owner: Turtle Lake/Mercer Public School
Driver No. 3: Melinda Neff, 47, Mercer, ND Minor Injuries
Restraints: Seat belt in use
Passengers: 9 children ages 10-12 years old Minor Injuries
Restraints: Not in use
Charges: None

NARRATIVE:

On 8/26/2022, at about 3:40 PM, on ND 200, at mile marker 221, ½ mile east of Pickardville, ND, a crash involving a school bus belonging to Turtle Lake/Mercer Public Schools, a Chevrolet Impala, and a trailer being towed by a Ford F250.

The Impala was westbound on 200. The pickup and bus were both eastbound. The bus was traveling from Turtle Lake/Mercer School to McClusky. The Impala drifted across the center line. The pickup steered right to avoid a collision. The Impala missed the pickup but struck the side of the trailer. The school bus was behind the pickup. The bus struck the Impala head on. The bus overturned onto its right side and came to rest in the intersection of ND200 and 1st Ave NW.

There were 9 children on the bus with ages ranging from 10 to 12 years old. The bus driver evacuated the children, and they were all standing on 1st Ave NW when units arrived. The bus driver and children all had minor injuries (bruises and scrapes). The bus driver and children were transported to the Turtle Lake hospital for evaluation.

The driver of the Impala was declared dead at the scene. The driver of the pickup was not injured.

ND 200 was closed between mile marker 220 and 223 for approximately 5 hours. Traffic was rerouted onto county roads during the closure.

For More Information Contact:

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