

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | October 13, 2022

Two-Vehicle Fatal Crash

What: Fatal/Injury

Where: Highway 281 & Rolette County Road 15

When: 10:06 PM CST on 10/12/2022

Road Conditions: Good

Weather Conditions: Dark/Cloudy/Windy

Crash Involvement: Two passenger vehicles

Type of Crash: Angle

Agencies Involved: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Rolette County Sheriff's Office, Rolette Police Department, Rolla Police Department, Belcourt EMS, Rolla EMS, Belcourt Fire Department, Turtle Mountain Tribal Security and North Dakota Highway Patrol

Vehicle No. 1: 2021 Buick Enclave

Driver No. 1: Richard Casavant; 73 yo; Rolette, ND; Serious injuries

Restraints: seatbelt

Charges: pending

Vehicle No. 2: 2003 Toyota Tundra

Driver No. 2: Ernest Counts; Male; Minot, ND; 57 yo; Fatal Injuries

Passenger: Jasmine Counts; 30 yo; female; Dunseith, ND; Serious injuries

Passenger: Brandon Reese; 32 yo; Clinton Township, MI; Serious injuries

Restraints: no occupants had seatbelts on

Charges: pending

NARRATIVE: A Buick Enclave was northbound on Rolette County Road 15 approaching the intersection with Highway 281. A Toyota Tundra was westbound on Highway 281. The Buick disregarded to posted stop sign, entering the intersection and striking the Toyota. The Buick entered the northwest ditch, struck a light pole and came to final rest facing west. The Toyota also entered the northwest ditch, rolled and came to final rest on its passenger side facing west. The driver of the Buick was wearing his seatbelt and sustained non-life threatening injuries. The driver of the Buick was transported to Presentation Medical Center in Rolla and later to Trinity Medical Center in Minot. All occupants of the Toyota were not wearing seatbelts and ejected. The driver of the Toyota sustained fatal injuries and died on scene. The two passengers sustained serious injuries and were transported to Trinity Medical Center in Minot ND.

For More Information Contact:

Sgt. Matthew Johnson 701.580.7442

majohns@nd.gov