

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | January 30, 2023

Injury Head-On Crash

What: Injury

Where: Cass County Road 81 and Cass County Road 16 (112th Ave SE)

When: 01-30-2023 at 01:05 Central

Road Conditions: Dry/Asphalt

Weather Conditions: Clear

Crash Involvement: Vehicle vs Vehicle

Type of Crash: Head-on

Agencies Involved: North Dakota Highway Patrol, Cass County Sheriff's Office, Sanford Ambulance, Horace Fire & Rescue, Clay County Sheriff's Office

Vehicle No. 1: 2000 Chevrolet Suburban

Driver No. 1: Alan Walker-28, Moorhead, MN, non-life threatening injury

Restraints: Airbag deployed, unrestrained

Charges: DUI, DUI Refusal, Driving Under Suspension, Criminal Vehicular Injury, Duty in Accident Involving Injury, Escape

Vehicle No. 2: 2017 Jeep Cherokee

Driver No. 2: Marisa Merkel-37, Fargo ND, non-life threatening injuries

Restraints: Airbag deployed, restrained

Charges: None

Passenger No. 1: Brandon Johnson-46, Fargo ND, non-life threatening injuries

Restraints: Airbag deployed, restrained

NARRATIVE: Walker was south bound on Cass County Road 81, crossed the center line and was attempting to make a left turn onto 112th Ave S (Cass County road 16). Merkel was north on Cass County Road 81 and was struck by Walker head-on. Both vehicles came to final rest in the northeast ditch of the intersection.

Merkel and Johnson were transported to Essentia Health via Sanford Ambulance and were later discharged. Walker fled the scene to his residence in rural Clay County. Clay County Sheriff's Office located Walker at his residence. Sanford Ambulance transported Walker to Sanford Hospital.

Walker was arrested for DUI at Sanford Hospital. While being treated for his injuries Walker attempted to escape but was apprehended by a NDHP Trooper. Walker was discharged from Sanford Hospital and transported to the Cass County Jail. The crash was located north of Hickson/Oxbow approximately 3.5 miles.

For More Information Contact:

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