

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | February 26, 2024

UPDATE

SERIOUS INJURY CRASH ON SUNSET DRIVE IN MANDAN

What: Fatal Crash

Where: Sunset Drive and Old Red Trail in Mandan

When: February 21, 2024 at approximately 1:40 PM

Road Conditions: Clear, dry

Weather Conditions: Sunny, clear skies, 59F degree temp, 14 mph wind

Crash Involvement: Vehicle vs Vehicle and overturn

Type of Crash: Rear end and rollover

Agencies Involved: North Dakota Highway Patrol
Mandan Police Department
Mandan Fire and Rescue
Metro Ambulance

Vehicle No. 1: Black 2023 Chevrolet Silverado

Driver No. 1: James Teske, 77, Mandan Fatal injuries

Restraints: Seatbelt in use, airbags deployed (front, side, and curtain)

Charges: None

Vehicle No. 2: Dark Green 1999 Chevrolet Trailblazer

Driver No. 2: Mary Palanuk, 71, Manan Minor injuries

Restraints: Seat belt in use

Charges: None

NARRATIVE: A 2023 Chevrolet Silverado pickup was traveling north on Sunset Drive in Mandan, driven by James Teske. A Chevrolet Trailblazer SUV was stopped at a red light at the intersection of the westbound I-94 exit ramp and Sunset Drive, which was driven by Mary Malanuk. The pickup struck the rear of the SUV, pushing it forward through the intersection.

The SUV came to rest on Sunset Drive next to the curb between Old Red Trail and the exit ramp intersection. The pickup deflected off the SUV to the northeast. It continued through the ditch, across the bike path, crossed Old Red Trail, and vaulted off an embankment into a drainage ditch. The pickup overturned end over end in the ditch. **Teske** was extricated from the pickup by the Mandan Fire Department and transported to Sanford Medical Center by Metro Ambulance. **James Teske died of his injuries at the hospital the next day.** The driver of the SUV was also transported by ambulance with minor injuries. All occupants were wearing seat belts. The front, side, and curtain airbags deployed on the pickup.

This cause of this crash is under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

For more information, contact:

Sergeant Jeremiah Bohn (701) 391-0025

jdbohn@ND.gov