

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | January 31, 2024

**UPDATE: Benson County US Highway 281 and ND Highway 19 Intersection Fatal Crash**

**What:** Fatality

**Where:** US Highway 281 and ND Highway 19 Intersection; approximately 3 miles north of Minnewaukan, ND

**When:** January 30, 2024, at 11:35 AM CST

**Road Conditions:** Good, dry

**Weather Conditions:** Sunny, clear

**Crash Involvement:** Vehicle/Vehicle

**Type of Crash:** Right angle

**Agencies Involved:** North Dakota Highway Patrol, Benson County Sheriff's Office, Leeds Fire & Rescue, Minnewaukan Fire & Rescue, and Leeds Ambulance Service

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2011 Honda Element

**Driver No. 1:** Janice Elder; Female; 67 years old; Maddock, ND; Fatal injuries

**Restraints:** Seatbelt worn and airbags deployed

**Vehicle No. 2:** 2001 Kenworth T800 and 2023 Wilson Hopper Bottom semi-trailer

**Driver No. 2:** Mitchell Weed; Male; 46 years old; Minnewaukan, ND; Minor injuries

**Restraints:** No seatbelt worn and no airbags deployed

**NARRATIVE:** Unit 1 was westbound on ND Highway 19 at the stop sign regulated intersection with US Highway 281. Unit 2 was northbound on US Highway 281. The driver of Unit 1 disregarded the stop sign, entered the intersection, and was struck by Unit 2 at a right angle. Unit 1 entered the west ditch of US Highway 281, where it came to rest on its right side. Unit 2 entered the east ditch of US Highway 281, where it came to rest on its top.

The crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

**For more information, contact:**

**Sgt. Christopher A. Schaefer** (701)328-2447  
cschaefe@nd.gov