

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 4, 2024

**UPDATE**

**2 Vehicle Fatality Crash in Mercer County**

**What:** Fatality

**Where:** Highway 49 MM 89(11 miles south of Beulah)

**When:** 6/4/2024 2:38 PM Central

**Road Conditions:** Good

**Weather Conditions:** Sunny

**Crash Involvement:** Vehicle/Vehicle

**Type of Crash:** Rear-End

**Agencies Involved:** North Dakota Highway Patrol, Mercer County Sheriff's Department, Hazen Ambulance, Hazen Fire, Beulah Fire

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2024 Volkswagen Tiguan

**Driver No. 1:** Robert Gardner, 20-year-old male from Riverton, Utah, Fatality

**Restraints:** seatbelt in use

**Charges:** no charges filed

**Passenger No. 1:** Jacob Kesler, 20-year-old male from Ely, Nevada, Fatality

**Restraints:** seatbelt in use

**Vehicle No. 2:** 2024 Volvo Semi-Truck

**Driver No. 2:** Brandon Boucher, from Minot, no injuries

**Charges:** no charges filed

**NARRATIVE:** Highway 49 northbound traffic was stopped by the fire department for a vehicle fire that was blocking the roadway. The Volvo truck was stopped in the northbound lane with more vehicles in front of him stopped. Volkswagen Tiguan was traveling northbound and did not see the stopped semi in the roadway. Volkswagen Tiguan struck the Volvo's trailer in the rear-end. Both occupants of the Volkswagen were pronounced deceased on scene. Boucher was not injured. Crash remains under investigation by the Highway Patrol.

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**For more information, contact:**

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