

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | May 3, 2024

Ward County Injury Crash

Where: Highway 52 Mile Marker 106, approximately 10 miles Southeast of Minot

When: May 2, 2024, approximately 8:16 PM CT

Road Conditions: Wet

Weather Conditions: Heavy rain

Crash Involvement: Three Vehicles

Type of Crash: Angle

Agencies Involved: NDHP, Ward County Sheriff's Office, Sawyer Fire Department, Velva Fire, Velva EMS, Trinity Health first Response

Vehicle No. 1: 2019 Chrysler Pacifica

Driver No. 1: Earl Fink, 82 years old, Sawyer, ND, Minor injuries

Restraints: Seatbelt used

Charges: None

Passenger No. 1: Viola Fink, 81 years old, Sawyer, ND, Minor injuries

Restraints: Seatbelt used

Vehicle No. 2: 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier

Driver No. 2: Juvenile male, Sawyer, ND, Serious Injuries

Restraints: Seatbelt used

Charges: Under investigation

Vehicle No. 3: 2021 Ford F-150

Driver No. 3: Jeffrey Michalenko, 73 years old, Bergen, ND, Not injured

Restraints: Seatbelt Used

Charges: None

NARRATIVE: On May 2nd, 2024, at approximately 8:16 pm, a three-vehicle injury crash occurred approximately 10 miles southeast of Minot on Highway 52 near mile marker 106. A 2021 Ford F-150 being driven by Jeffrey Michalenko was eastbound on Highway 52 near mile marker 106 in the left lane passing a semi. A 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier being driven by a juvenile male lost control while driving eastbound on Highway 52 attempting to pass the same semi as Jeffrey Michalenko. The Chevrolet Cavalier being driven by the juvenile male slid sideways into the westbound lanes in front of a 2019 Chrysler Pacifica being driven by Earl Fink. The westbound 2019 Chrysler Pacifica struck the 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier on the driver side. Debris from the crash struck the 2021 Ford F-150. The juvenile male sustained serious injuries and was transported to Trinity Hospital in Minot. Earl Fink and the passenger, Viola Fink sustained minor injuries and were transported to Trinity Hospital in Minot. Jeffrey Michalenko was not injured.

The crash remains under investigation by the NDHP.

For more information, contact:

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