

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | September 29, 2025

**MCKENZIE COUNTY FATAL CRASH UPDATE**

**What:** Fatality

**Where:** Intersection of Highway 85 and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street

**When:** September 28, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. CDT

**Road Conditions:** Good

**Weather Conditions:** Good

**Crash Involvement:** Commercial motor vehicle vs vehicle

**Type of Crash:** T-bone

**Agencies Involved:** North Dakota Highway Patrol, McKenzie County Sheriff's Office, McKenzie Rural Fire, Watford City Police Department, McKenzie County Ambulance

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2006 Peterbilt truck pulling trailer

**Driver No. 1:** Mickey Gramley, 41, Bybee, TN, not injured

**Restraints:** Seatbelt in use

**Charges:** Under investigation

**Vehicle No. 2:** 2013 Ford Fusion

**Driver No. 2:** Jacob Shepard, 24, Watford City, serious injuries

**Restraints:** Seatbelt in use

**Charges:** Under investigation

**Passenger No. 1:** Hannah Kocher, 25, Watford City, fatality

**Restraints:** Seatbelt in use

**Passenger No. 2:** Female, 5, Watford City, fatality (juvenile name will not be released)

**Restraints:** Seatbelt in use

**NARRATIVE:** On September 28, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., a 2013 Ford Fusion driven by Jacob Riley was traveling southbound on Highway 85 approaching the intersection with 23rd St. NW south of Watford City. At the same time, a 2006 Peterbilt truck pulling a trailer driven by Mickey Gramley was traveling eastbound on 23rd St. NW toward the intersection. Gramley disregarded the posted stop sign and struck the passenger side of the Ford Fusion in a T-bone collision. Both vehicles came to rest in the southeast ditch of the intersection.

The Ford Fusion's front seat passenger, Hannah Kocher, and rear seat passenger, a juvenile, were pronounced deceased on scene. Shepard sustained serious injuries and was airlifted to Bismarck. Gramley was not injured.

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

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**Contact information :** Lt . Jenna Clawson Huibregtse, [ndhpsafetyedu@nd.gov](mailto:ndhpsafetyedu@nd.gov), 701-328-2447

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<https://www.nd.gov/ndhp/ndhp-news>