

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | August 30, 2025

## **Walsh County Injury Crash UPDATE**

**What:** Injury Crash

**Where:** North Dakota Highway 17, near mile marker 129; east side of Grafton

**When:** August 29, 2025; at approximately 7:53 AM CDT

**Road Conditions:** Good

**Weather Conditions:** Foggy

**Crash Involvement:** Vehicle/Vehicle

**Type of Crash:** Head-on

**Agencies Involved:** North Dakota Highway Patrol, Grafton Police

Department, Walsh County Sheriff's Department, Grafton Fire Department,  
and Valley Ambulance Service

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2024 Ford Escape

**Driver No. 1:** Ardis Pitcher; 70; Cavalier, ND; serious injuries

**Restraints:** Seatbelt worn; airbags deployed

**Charges:** Under investigation

**Passenger No. 1:** Randy Collins; 65; Grafton, ND; serious injuries

**Restraints:** Seatbelt worn; airbags deployed

**Vehicle No. 2:** 1992 Ford F150

**Driver No. 1:** Juvenile driver, non-life-threatening injury

**NARRATIVE:** The Escape, driven by Ardis Pitcher, was eastbound on ND Highway 17, approaching an eastbound implement of husbandry (a farm tractor pulling a chisel plow) in the lanes of travel. The F150 was westbound on ND Highway 17, in the left lane. Pitcher attempted to overtake the

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implement of husbandry in a no passing zone, crossed the centerline, and struck the F150 head-on. At the time of the crash, dense fog was present. Pitcher and passenger, Randy Collins, were transported to Altru Hospital in Grand Forks. The juvenile driver was transported to a local hospital and their name will not be released. The farm implement was not part of the crash.

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

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

**Notice:** Updates to media releases will be posted the NDHP website:  
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