

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | **6/12/2025**

I29 Closure – Grand Forks County UPDATE

NARRATIVE: On Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at approximately 8:40 a.m., a North Dakota Highway Patrol trooper conducted a traffic stop on a southbound passenger vehicle on Interstate 29 for illegal window tint. Based on probable cause troopers searched the vehicle and in the process located a device believed to be an explosive.

The Grand Forks Bomb Squad was contacted and responded to the scene. For public safety, southbound I-29 was closed between Thompson (Exit 130) and Reynolds (Exit 123) at approximately 10:55 a.m. while the device was examined.

At approximately 12:10 p.m., the device was safely detonated on site. Following the detonation, the vehicle was thoroughly cleared using x-ray screening and search methods. Evidence was collected from the scene, and the investigation remains ongoing.

Southbound I-29 was reopened to traffic at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Involved agencies: North Dakota Highway Patrol, Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office, Thompson Police Department, Grand Forks Bomb Squad (Grand Forks Sheriff's Office, Grand Forks Police Department, and UND Police Department), Reynolds Fire Department, Altru Health System Ambulance, Thompson Fire Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Vehicle No. 1: 2001 Mercedes-Benz CL2

Driver No. 1: Gabriel Messmer, 41, Fargo, ND

Charges: Possessing explosive device – Felony Class C; and Driving without liability insurance; Tinted windows (warning)

Passenger No. 1: Christopher Knowels, 42, Fargo, ND

Charges: Possessing explosive device – Felony Class C

Contact information: Lt. Jenna Clawson Huibregtse, ndhpsafetyedu@nd.gov, 701-328-2447

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