



NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | January 30, 2026

STARK COUNTY FATAL CRASH UPDATE

UPDATE: January 30, 2026

Driver 1: Robert Strommen, 88, New England, ND. Seatbelt in use.

Driver 2: Darrell Mckown, 57, Oakland, TN. Seatbelt in use.

Driver 3: Matthew Marshall, 42, Spirit Lake, ID. Seatbelt in use.

Driver 4: Randy Austin, 54, Paramount, CA. Seatbelt in use.

US Highway 85 was closed from 2:32 p.m. until 5:49 p.m. (Central Time) due to the crash

What: Fatality

Where: U.S. Highway 85 near mile marker 58

When: January 28, 2026, 2:31 p.m. Central Time

Road Conditions: Dry

Weather Conditions: Clear/seasonal

Crash Involvement: Passenger vehicle vs oversized load

Type of Crash: Angle

Agencies Involved: NDHP, Stark County Sheriff's Office, Slope County Sheriff's Office, Hettinger County Sheriff's Office, Billings County EMS, Billings County Rural Fire

Vehicle No. 1: 2005 Chevrolet K2500

Driver No. 1: Male, 88, North Dakota, fatality

Restraints: Under investigation

Vehicle No. 2: 2018 Kenworth truck (puller) pulling trailer with oversized load

Driver No. 2: Male, 57, Tennessee, not injured

Restraints: Under investigation

Charges: Under investigation



Vehicle No. 3: 2019 Western Star truck (pusher)

Driver No. 3: Male, 42, Idaho, not injured

Restraints: Under investigation

Charges: Under investigation

Vehicle No. 4: 2016 Chevrolet Silverado

Driver No. 4: Male, 54, California, not injured

Restraints: Under investigation

Charges: Under investigation

NARRATIVE: On January 28, 2026, at approximately 2:31 p.m., a 2005 Chevrolet K2500 was traveling southbound on U.S. Highway 85 near mile marker 58 in Stark County. A northbound oversized load move consisting of a puller truck, pusher truck, and pilot vehicle were transporting a compressor with pedestal support.

The Chevrolet K2500 failed to safely maneuver past the oversized load. The puller and pusher trucks attempted to move the load as far right as possible. The pickup struck a beam on the oversized load trailer and then collided with the rear axles of the trailer.

After the initial impact, the pickup continued southbound, lost control, and struck the pilot vehicle. The pilot vehicle and southbound pickup both came to rest in the east ditch.

The driver of the Chevrolet K2500 died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash.

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

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

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

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

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