

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | August 31, 2019

## **Update - US Highway 2 Fatal Crash - Ramsey County, ND**

What: Fatal Crash

Where: US Highway 2 eastbound @ mile marker 271.50 - 3/4 of a mile east of Devils Lake, ND

When: August 30, 2019 @ 9:12 PM

**Road Conditions: Good** 

Weather Conditions: Clear, Dark, Not Lighted

**Crash Involvement:** 2-Vehicle

**Type of Crash:** Head-on

**Agencies Involved:** North Dakota Highway Patrol, Devils Lake Police Department, Ramsey

County Sheriff Department, Devils Fire Department, Ramsey County Rural Fire Department,

Lake Region Ambulance Service, Valley Med Flight

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2000 Chevrolet Impala

**Driver No. 1:** Mina Eckes; Female; 79; Devils Lake, ND; Fatal

**Restraints:** Seatbelt; Airbag Deployed

**Charges:** No Charges Filed

**Vehicle No. 2:** 2014 Kia Optima

**Driver No. 2:** Taylor Halle; Female; 23; Devils Lake, ND; Injured

**Restraints:** Seatbelt; Airbag Deployed

Charges: No Charges Filed

Passenger No. 1: Female; 13 Days Old; Devils Lake, ND; Uninjured

**Restraints:** Child Restraint System - Rear Facing

**NARRATIVE:** The Chevrolet Impala was observed traveling westbound in the eastbound lanes of traffic on US Highway 2 from a rural Ramsey County location. A witness who observed the wrong way motorist enter the eastbound lane immediately called 911. Approximately 1 to

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1  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile(s) after entering the westbound lanes of traffic the Chevrolet Impala struck the 2014 Kia Optima head-on. The Chevrolet Impala came to final rest on its wheels mostly in the center median facing southeast. The Kia Optima came to final rest on its wheels in a right turn lane facing east-southeast.

US Highway 2 eastbound was blocked for nearly 2 hours due to the crash scene investigation and clean-up of the crash scene. Eastbound motor vehicle traffic was diverted onto a frontage located to the north of US Highway 2 during the crash scene investigation and clean-up of the crash scene.

The female driver and her new born child were transported by ambulance to CHI Saint Alexius Hospital in Devils Lake. The female driver was later transported by Valley Med Flight to Altru Hospital in Grand Forks for injuries sustained in the crash. The new born child was discharged from medical care and released to her father.

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

## **For More Information Contact:**

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