

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | December 20, 2019

Lidgerwood School Bus Crash
Updated on 12/20/2019 – updates in bold

What: Injury Crash

Where: 4th Ave NE and DMVW Railroad Crossing - Lidgerwood

When: December 19th, 2019, **3:37 pm**

Road Conditions: Snow and ice covered

Weather Conditions: Cloudy

Crash Involvement: School Bus vs. Train

Type of Crash: Angle

Agencies Involved: NDHP, Richland County SO, Lidgerwood FD & Ambulance, Hankinson FD & Ambulance, Wyndmere Ambulance, **Breck/Wahp Ambulance**, Richland Emergency Services, Sanford Lifeflight

Train: Dakota Missouri Valley & Western Railroad (DMVW) train including **two locomotive engines and ten loaded grain rail cars.**

Engineer: **Michael Mallett, Oakes, ND, 51 YOA male - uninjured**

Restraints: n/a

Charges: none

Conductor/Witness: **Terry Roney, Oakes, ND, 51 YOA male - uninjured**

Restraints: n/a

Vehicle No. 2: 2018 Freightliner School Bus

Driver No. 2: **Michael Skroch, 69 YOA male, Lidgerwood, ND - uninjured**

Restraints: Seat belt

Charges: Crash remains under investigation

Bus Passengers: Eighteen K-12 Lidgerwood Public School students to include:
9 YOA male, uninjured
8 YOA female, injured – transported by ambulance
15 YOA female, injured – transported by Sanford Lifeflight
11 YOA male, injured – transported by ambulance
6 YOA female, uninjured
7 YOA female, uninjured
7 YOA female, uninjured
10 YOA male, injured – transported by parents to hospital
10 YOA male, uninjured
14 YOA female, injured – transported by ambulance
10 YOA female, uninjured
7 YOA male, uninjured
8 YOA male, uninjured
11 YOA female, uninjured
12 YOA female, uninjured
10 YOA female, uninjured
8 YOA female, uninjured
7 YOA male, uninjured

NARRATIVE:

A Lidgerwood Public School school bus was northbound on 4th Ave NE in Lidgerwood and was crossing two sets of DMVW railroad tracks. While crossing the tracks, the school bus was struck at a right angle by a DMVW train that was traveling eastbound at a slow speed.

The front of the train struck the driver's side of the school bus at the rear axle. The force of the collision caused the school bus to rotate counter clockwise and then roll onto its passenger side.

Eighteen K-12 Lidgerwood Public School students were being transported on the bus after the school day ended. Three of these students were transported by local ambulance services to local hospitals. One student was transported by Sanford Lifeflight to a Fargo hospital. **One student was transported by their parents to the hospital.**

The crash remains under investigation by the NDHP. The names of the juvenile parties will not be released.

Below are pictures of the bus after the collision.

For More Information Contact:

Captain Bryan Niewind (701) 320-1309
bniewind@nd.gov



