

UPDATED NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | September 29, 2019

One Injured, One Dies in Walsh County Crash

What: Fatality

Where: ND Hwy 17 at intersection with ND Hwy 18, approximately 8 miles west of Grafton, ND

When: 09/28/2019 at 4:20 PM

Road Conditions: Good, dry

Weather Conditions: Clear

Crash Involvement: One-vehicle

Type of Crash: Tipover

Agencies Involved: NDHP, Walsh County Sheriff's Office, Park River Fire & Ambulance, Valley Ambulance Service

Vehicle No. 1: 2009 Harley Davidson motorcycle

Driver No. 1: James Olafson; male; 50 years of age; of Edinburg, ND; serious injuries

Restraints: No helmet

Charges: none

Passenger No. 1: Laura Zelewski; female; 43 years of age; of Grafton, ND; deceased

Restraints: No helmet

NARRATIVE: Olafson was driving the Harley Davidson west on ND Hwy 17. At the intersection with ND Hwy 18, Olafson took evasive action to avoid colliding with a vehicle that was turning left across the westbound lane ahead of him. The Harley Davidson tipped, ejecting both the driver and passenger. Olafson was transported by ambulance with serious injuries to First Care Medical Center in Park River, ND. Zelewski was transported by ambulance to Unity Hospital in Grafton, ND, where she died.

The crash remains under investigation by the Highway Patrol.

For More Information Contact:

Sergeant Ryan Panasuk 701-328-1081
rpanasuk@nd.gov