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MEDIA RELEASE

North Dakota Highway Patrol

374 34 St S, Ste A, Fargo, ND 58103



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

02/20/2019

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NDHP Crashes Investigated February 20th, 2019

Fargo, ND –

On February 20th, 2019 between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm, the NDHP Southeast Region investigated twenty crashes that occurred on I-29 and I-94 in Cass, Barnes and Stutsman Counties. Sixteen of the crashes occurred in Cass County. Luckily, only two of the crashes involved minor injuries. Some notable crashes from this time period:

8:20 am: Two multiple vehicle property crashes occurred between the Sheyenne Street (Exit 346) and Veteran's Boulevard (Exit 347) exits on eastbound I-94. I-94 was blocked and closed at this location for approximately 15 minutes until one lane could be opened for traffic. In addition to the two crashes, approximately 8 other vehicle spun out and entered the median or ditch at this location. The NDHP was assisted by West Fargo PD and Fargo FD at this location.

11:15 am: A 2019 Freightliner semi-truck, towing a van trailer, jack knifed southbound on I-29 near MM 68. The truck jack knifed completely off the road and did not create any travel issues. Both occupants were uninjured.

4:00 pm: A commercial motor vehicle (CMV) jack knifed eastbound on I-94 near MM 310, about 3 miles east of Tower City. The CMV came to rest in the median, blocking the eastbound passing lane. A pickup took evasive action while the CMV jack knifed and rolled over in the ditch at this same location. There were no injuries in either crash. The passing lane of eastbound I-94 was closed for about 90 minutes.

The Vision Zero Traffic Safety Initiative is a multi-agency partnership working toward the goal of zero motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries on North Dakota roads.

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Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.



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In addition to the crash investigations, NDHP troopers responded to twenty-one motorists assists, where individuals had spun out of control into the median or ditch and required the assistance of a wrecker service. Ten abandoned vehicles were located during this time period as well, stuck off the road, unoccupied.

The NDHP would remind motorists of the following during inclement weather:

- Increase your following distances. Give yourself extra space to react to the changing road and traffic conditions.
- Slow down, give yourself extra time to get to where you are going. Most crashes during winter events occur because individuals are traveling too fast for conditions or following too close.
- Get rid of all distractions while driving. Focus on your driving and the other traffic around. Be a defensive driver and put your phones down. No text or phone call is worth your life.
- Turn off your cruise control.
- Place your vehicle in 4x4 mode if possible.
- Turn on your headlights so other traffic can see you in low visibility conditions.
- And, always wear your seat belt.

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