Triple Fatal Crash – Cass Co. Rd. 10 Near Tower City

What: Fatal Crash involving three fatalities, three injuries and one arrest

Where: Cass Co. Rd. 10 – ¾ of a mile east of Tower City

When: March 29th, 2019 at approximately 11:38 pm

Road Conditions: Normal spring driving conditions, dry roads

Weather Conditions: Clear

Crash Involvement: Three vehicles involved, two separate crashes

Type of Crash: Head-On

Agencies Involved: NDHP, Ransom SO, Barnes SO, Cass SO, Buffalo 1st Responders, Sanford Life Flight, Casselton Ambulance, Cass County Coroner

Vehicle No. 1: 2005 Lincoln Aviator
Driver No. 1: 16 YOA female driver – serious injuries
Restraints: Airbag deployed, seatbelt use at this time is unknown
Charges: Driver is a juvenile, if charged, those charges will not be released.

Vehicle No. 2: 2011 Ford Econoline Van
Driver No. 2: 40 YOA male, deceased
Restraints: Unknown as this time
Charges: None

Passenger No. 1: 50 YOA male, injured, front seat passenger
Restraints: Unknown at this time
Passenger No. 2: 43 YOA female, deceased – rear seat passenger
Restraints: Unknown at this time

Passenger No. 3: 46 YOA female, deceased – rear seat passenger
Restraints: Unknown at this time

Passenger No. 4: 35 YOA female, injured – rear seat passenger
Restraints: Unknown at this time

Vehicle No. 3: 2003 Ford F150
Driver No. 3: John Wurtz, 37 YOA male, Utica, SD - uninjured
Restraints: Unknown as this time
Charges: DUI, Possession of Marijuana

NARRATIVE: The Lincoln, driven by a 16 YOA female, was eastbound on Cass County Road 10 east of Tower City. The Lincoln crossed over the center line of the roadway. After crossing over the center line, the Lincoln struck the Ford Econoline head on. Both vehicles came to rest across both lanes of Co. Rd. 10. Traffic was re-routed for approximately five hours while first responders and law enforcement processed the crash scene. The 16 YOA female driver was flown to a Fargo Hospital with serious injuries. The 40 YOA male driver of the Ford Econoline was pronounced dead on scene. Two passengers in the Ford Econoline were also killed in the crash, a 43 YOA female and 46 YOA female. A 50 YOA male and 35 YOA female that were passengers in the Ford Econoline suffered injuries and were transported to a Fargo Hospital for those injuries.

A short time after the initial crash, 37 YOA John Wurtz, Utica, SD, crashed his 2003 F150 into the Aviator. Wurtz was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence and Possession of Marijuana. He was uninjured.

Both crashes remain under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

*The release of names will not be done for a minimum of 24 hrs, to allow families of the fatal victims to be notified.*