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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

3/30/2019

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## 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

*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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**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.\*

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