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# MEDIA RELEASE

North Dakota Highway Patrol  
601 Channel Dr., Bismarck, ND 58501



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

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## Fatality Crash Oliver County-Update

**What:** Fatality Crash

**Where:** Oliver County, 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. NB (South Center Road), 1/2 mile south of Center

**When:** 03/06/2019 at 1012 p.m. CST

**Road Conditions:** Seasonal/Good

**Weather Conditions:** Clear

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2004 Chevrolet Montel Carlo SS passenger car

**Driver:** 55 yoa, Michael Paul Groce, New Salem, died on scene. Partially ejected. No seatbelt worn.

**Passenger No.1** 54 yoa, Michael Dean Itrich, New Salem, died on scene. Ejected, no seatbelt worn.

**Passenger No. 2** 52 yoa, Denise Renae Groce, New Salem, ejected and transported to Bismarck St. A's CHI. No seatbelt worn.

**Agencies Involved:** NDHP, Oliver County Sheriff, Center Ambulance, Center Fire/Rescue

The 2004 Chevrolet Monte Carlo, driven by Michael Paul Groce, was northbound on 38<sup>th</sup> Ave (South Center Road) when the vehicle lost control in a slight curve and entered the east ditch. The vehicle rolled over and came to rest on its tires facing east. Groce was partially ejected and died on scene. The front seat passenger, Michael Itrich, was ejected from the vehicle and died on scene. The female passenger, Denise Groce, was ejected and transported to St. A's CHI hospital in Bismarck where she was treated for non-life-threatening injuries. The crash remains under investigation by the NDHP.

*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.*

**VISION ZERO**

Zero fatalities. Zero excuses.