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Media Release

Major Accident Investigation Team Investigating Fatal Crashes near Lovelock and Fernley

Troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol are continuing to investigate two separate crashes involving wrong-way drivers that killed three motorists on Interstate 80 last evening.

The first crash happened around 9:24 pm on the freeway approximately 5 miles west of Lovelock. The driver of a green 1996 GMC Jimmy SUV, a Lovelock resident, was traveling westbound in the east bound lanes. The errant SUV sideswiped a white 2006 GMC Sierra pickup pulling a flat bed trailer with Montana license plates and then struck another eastbound vehicle described as a white 2006 Chevrolet Silverado pickup. After striking the Chevrolet pickup, the SUV came apart and caught fire killing the at-fault driver. The Chevrolet pickup also overturned and caught fire. None of the other involved motorists were injured in this chain of events.

The second crash took place approximately 1 hour later at 10:24 pm, when troopers were being dispatched to mile marker 46 on Interstate 80 near Fernley. The involved vehicles were a gold Mercedes Benz sedan and a silver Toyota sedan. The head-on collision took place in the eastbound lanes which killed both drivers and injured one passenger. As a result of the collision, both lanes were blocked and eastbound traffic was rerouted around the scene through Wadsworth.

More details about both crashes, including the names of those involved, will be released most likely tomorrow. The Nevada Highway Patrol-Northern Command Major Accident Investigation Team is investigating both tragedies.

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