

Brian Sandoval
Governor



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Trooper Chuck Allen
Public Information Officer
Nevada Highway Patrol-Northern Command
(775) 230-4921
callen@dps.state.nv.us

Media Release

Montana Resident Killed in Crash on Interstate 80 near Fernley

Last evening just before 5:00 pm, troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a motor vehicle collision on Interstate 80 near mile marker 51, approximately 3 miles east of Fernley.

The preliminary accident investigation details indicate that a silver Chevrolet pickup that was towing a small trailer hauling a fishing boat was traveling eastbound on the freeway in the right hand travel lane. The lone elderly driver of the pickup, an 82-year-old man from Montana, attempted to turn left into the center median area. Also traveling eastbound in the left hand travel lane near that location was an 18 wheeled commercial motor vehicle truck and trailer transporting food products. It appears the elderly driver may have attempted to make a u-turn through the center dirt median area and failed to see the approaching eastbound big rig from behind.

The driver of the big rig applied the brakes and attempted to steer toward the median in an effort to avoid a collision with the errant pickup driver. The front of the red tractor struck the left side of the pickup in the roadway near the left travel lane and inside paved shoulder causing the pickup to roll over and separating it from the boat trailer. The elderly male was pronounced deceased at the scene while big rig driver who stopped his commercial motor vehicle in the center dirt median area after the collision was not injured.

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office and the Washoe County Medical Examiner's Office are still attempting to properly identify the victim and notify his family of the tragedy. Once that notification has been made his name will be released.

The accident is being investigated by Trooper Robert Haigney of the Major Accident Investigation Team. Witnesses, or anyone with additional information, are encouraged to call him at (775) 689-4682 regarding case # NHP-1104191337.

As a safety reminder to all motorists, it is illegal to attempt or make a u-turn on a controlled access highway or freeway. Motorists who drive past an off ramp where they may have wanted to exit the highway should travel to the next interchange where the transition can be made safely and legally.

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