

Brian Sandoval
Governor



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Media Advisory

Motorists Identified in Single-Vehicle Rollover Crash in Douglas County that Killed One

On Sunday morning, May 22, 2011, at approximately 5:14 am, troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a single-vehicle rollover crash on US 395 near Courtland Lane, approximately 6 miles south of Gardnerville in Douglas County.

The preliminary crash investigation details indicate that a silver 1998 Dodge Durango was traveling northbound on US 395 at a very high rate of speed. The driver of the SUV allowed his vehicle to drift off the right roadway edge when he over-corrected his vehicle's steering to the left and once again to the right. The vehicle entered a broad-side skid and departed the right roadway edge and proceeded to travel approximately 40 feet down an embankment where it rolled over multiple times. The vehicle came to rest on its wheels facing south approximately 250 feet away from the highway in a field. This section of US 395 is a two-lane highway with a posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour. It is unknown this morning if alcohol was a contributing factor.

The 26-year-old male driver, Emilio Vargas-Gonzales of Carson City, was thrown from the vehicle as it rolled over and sustained fatal injuries at the scene. His passenger, 34-year-old Francisco J. Curiel-Caro of Reno, was seat belted and remained inside the vehicle during the crash. He was flown to Renown Regional Medical Center by Care Flight with life-threatening injuries. Family members of both motorists were notified and briefed of the crash by yesterday afternoon. The medical condition of Mr. Curiel-Caro was not available this morning.

The Major Accident Investigation Team will be investigating this crash. Witnesses or anyone with information, are encouraged to contact Trooper Robert Haigney at (775) 689-4682 regarding case # NHP-1105220105.

As a reminder, seat belts do save lives and the annual "Click it or Ticket" seat belt awareness and enforcement campaign begins today and continues through Sunday, June 5th, 2011.

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