

Brian Sandoval
Governor



Chris Perry
Director

Bernie Curtis
Chief
Nevada Highway Patrol

November 24, 2011

Trooper Roy Baughman
Nevada Highway Patrol – Central Command
rbaughman@dps.state.nv.us
775-753-1177

Media Release

Saratoga Springs Utah Man Killed in a Single Vehicle Roll-Over Crash

On Thursday, November 24, 2011, at approximately 3:45 pm, troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a single vehicle roll-over crash on State Route 233 approximately 6 miles south of Montello, Nevada.

The preliminary crash investigation details reveal a 2003 Toyota pickup was traveling southbound on SR233 and over-turned. Gray T. Lowery, age 70, of Saratoga Springs Utah allowed the vehicle to drift partially onto the west dirt shoulder. The vehicle struck a steel road marker post with its front end. Mr. Lowery swerved the vehicle to the left in an attempt to regain the roadway. The vehicle regained the southbound lane, crossed the center line and into the northbound lane.

Mr. Lowery over-corrected his steering to the right, then back to the left and back to the right. The vehicle rotated clockwise as it exited the west road edge of SR233 and overturned. The vehicle came to rest on its wheels, west of SR233. Mr. Lowery, who was unrestrained, was ejected from the vehicle. Mr. Lowery was flown to Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital (NNRH) in Elko by Summit Air Ambulance where he succumbed to his injuries.

The right front passenger, Richard L. Houston, age 49, of West Jordan Utah was also injured in the crash. Mr. Houston was restrained and suffered moderate injuries. He was taken to NNRH by Wells Ambulance.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Highway Patrol at (775) 753-1111

XXX

Two people lost their lives in two separated crashes on Eastern Nevada's highways over the Thanksgiving holiday.

On Sunday, November 27, 2011, a Lehi Utah woman was killed in a single vehicle roll-over crash on Interstate 80 approximately 9 miles west of Battle Mountain, Nevada.

“At around 4:15 am, a 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe was traveling eastbound on IR80 and overturned. Preliminary investigation reveals that **Pianola Finau**, age 19, of **Lehi Utah** allowed the vehicle to drift into the median. The vehicle continued eastbound in the median for a short distance. Ms. Finau swerved to the right in an attempt to regain the travel lane which caused the vehicle to rotate clockwise and overturn. The vehicle came to rest on its left side on the left shoulder of the eastbound lanes of IR80. The rear passenger, **Ravena M. Finau**, age 47 of Lehi Utah, who was unrestrained, was ejected as the vehicle overturned. Ravena M. Finau suffered fatal injuries and died at the scene. The right front passenger, **Heilele Finau**, age 26 of Lehi Utah, was also unrestrained, sustained critical injuries. Pianola Finau, who was restrained, sustained moderate injuries. Heilele Finau and Pianola Finau were transported to Battle Mountain General Hospital by Battle Mountain Ambulance. Heilele was transferred to Renown Medical Center in Reno, Nevada.

Both crashes are currently under investigation and anyone who witnessed either crash or has information is encouraged to call the Highway Patrol at (775) 753-1111

XXXX

