



April 29, 2011

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## **Media Release**

### **Toddler Involved in Mound House Fatality Crash Last Friday has Died**

3-year-old Colton Melendrez, who was involved in the crash last Friday on US Highway 50 near Kit Kat Drive, has died. He was pronounced deceased on Wednesday at Renown Regional Medical Center at approximately 2:48 pm. Colton had been riding in the left rear seating area of the Honda Accord; however, he was located on the front floor of the driver's compartment at the time of the accident.

The accident also killed Colton's 8-year-old sister Alexis, who died the following day at the hospital, and their father David Melendrez, 30 of Carson City, who died at the scene last Friday afternoon. At the time of the crash at approximately 3:54 pm, Mr. Melendrez had been driving a white 1997 Honda westbound on the four-lane highway. For reasons still being investigated, he allowed his vehicle to travel into the eastbound lanes where it sideswiped a white 2002 Chevrolet Avalanche before striking a black 2001 GMC pickup head-on. The driver of the Avalanche, 56-year-old Deborah Dipino of Carson City, was not injured while the driver of the black GMC pickup, 66-year-old Daniel L. Jones, was transported to Renown Regional Medical Center via ground ambulance. Mr. Jones was listed in fair condition on Monday and has since been discharged from the hospital.

Trooper Robert Haigney of the Major Accident Investigation Team is continuing to investigate this horrific crash. With the rash of other fatal crashes that have taken place in northern Nevada over the past two weeks, this investigation may take an extended period of time before it is completed.

*As a safety reminder to all motorists and especially to parents with children, please take the few extra seconds to be certain that everyone who is riding in your vehicle is properly restrained.*

*Children must be in an approved safety car seat until they are 6 years of age and weigh at least 60 pounds.*

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