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April 6, 2012

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Media Advisory

Accident in Battle Mountain Nevada Kills 11 Year Old Illinois Resident

On April 4, 2012, at approximately 11:45am, Troopers responded to a fatal accident on State Route 304 in Battle Mountain at Lander County mile marker 7.

Preliminary investigation indicates Taneka Purdis, age 31, from Chicago, IL, was driving a 1999 Chrysler mini-van towing a 10 foot U-Haul trailer westbound on SR304. Mrs. Purdis was approaching a slow moving commercial vehicle (semi) and began to pass. She encountered a vehicle traveling eastbound in her travel lane. Mrs. Purdis swerved to the right to avoid a head on collision then overcorrected to the left to regain the westbound lane. The mini-van and trailer rotated in a counterclockwise direction, traveled off the right paved shoulder and overturned. During rollover, a female juvenile was ejected and sustained fatal injuries at the scene.

The mini-van had a total of nine (9) occupants. All were from Chicago, Illinois.

Driver: Tameka Purdis, age 31, seatbelt--yes, ejected—no (Bat Mtn Hospt)
Passenger: Casey Purdis, age 35, seatbelt—yes, ejected—no (not transport)
Passenger: Donna Simms, age 50, seatbelt—no, ejected—UNK (Elko Hospt)
Passenger: Hakeem Simms, age 18, seatbelt—no, ejected—yes (Renown-Reno)
Passenger: Juvenile, age 9, seatbelt—no, ejected—UNK (Renown--Reno)
Passenger: Juvenile, age 5, seatbelt—no, ejected—no (Bat Mtn Hospt)
Passenger: Juvenile, age 11, seatbelt—no, ejected—yes, (Deceased)
Passenger: Juvenile, age 13, seatbelt—no, ejected—no (Renown—Reno)
Passenger: Juvenile, age 14, seatbelt—no, ejected—yes (Bat Mtn Hospt)

Preliminary investigation indicates 7 of the 9 occupants were NOT wearing their seatbelts and unsafe passing was a contributing factor in this accident.

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