

Brian Sandoval  
*Governor*



Chris Perry  
*Director*

March 15, 2012

Bernie Curtis  
*Chief  
Nevada Highway Patrol*

Trooper Chuck Allen  
Nevada Highway Patrol – Northern Command  
Public Information Officer  
[callen@dps.state.nv.us](mailto:callen@dps.state.nv.us)  
775-689-4680  
775-230-4921

## **Media Release**

### ***Major Accident Investigation Team Managing Fatality Crash in Mineral County***

Last evening at approximately 11:05 pm troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a head-on collision on US 95 in Mineral County, approximately 1 mile north of the community of Luning.

The details investigated so far indicate that an elderly male from Mineral County was traveling southbound on US 95 near mile marker 26 in a red 1976 Chevrolet Nova 2-door sedan.

Traveling northbound on the two-lane highway was an eighteen-wheeled commercial motor vehicle, comprised of a white 1999 Freightliner tractor towing an enclosed semi-trailer, driven by 41-year-old Mario H. Collazo of La Puente, California.

For reasons still unknown and being investigated, the driver of the Chevy Nova allowed his sedan to travel into the opposing lane directly in the path of the big truck. In an effort to avoid a direct head-on collision, the driver of the big-rig steered his truck to the right. The front of the sedan struck the rear axles of the trailer before the vehicle rotated off the east edge of the pavement and caught fire. The elderly male was pronounced deceased at the scene while the truck driver escaped injury.

As a result of the crash both directions of US 95 were closed for several hours while troopers completed their on-scene portion of the crash investigation. Once we are certain that family members have been notified about their loss, we will release the victim's name.

The NHP-Major Accident Investigation Team is handling the case and anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact Trooper Mike Stapledon at (775) 689-4623 or at [mstapledon@dps.state.nv.us](mailto:mstapledon@dps.state.nv.us) regarding case number NHP-120315580.

One scene photo is also attached below.



XXXX

