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Media Release

Troopers Investigating Rollover Crash on Interstate 80 in Fernley Where Driver Fled the Scene

On Thursday April 5, 2012 at approximately 4:15 am, troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to two motor vehicle collisions on eastbound Interstate 80 near mile marker 39, approximately 7 miles west of Fernley. The chain of events began when the driver of a white 1997 Subaru Legacy station wagon, that had been traveling eastbound, allowed the vehicle to depart the right travel lane and proceed onto the paved shoulder and strike the adjacent section of guardrail. The vehicle then crossed both eastbound lanes and struck the left, or inside, section of guardrail before proceeding across both lanes again where it struck another section of guardrail. Evidence at the scene indicated the vehicle subsequently rolled over at least one time and came to rest on its wheels blocking the entire right-hand travel lane. The driver abandoned the vehicle and left the scene prior to our arrival.

Approximately two minutes later, another eastbound vehicle described as a black 2009 Toyota Prius, driven by Mark J. Cox, 37 of Reno, struck the abandoned Subaru. The Prius remained on its wheels and sustained substantial front end damage. Mr. Cox received injuries in the collision and was transported from the scene by REMSA and taken to Renown Regional Medical Center. He was treated at the hospital and was discharged later this morning.

Trooper Terry Whitehead is investigating the initial single-vehicle crash involving the Subaru and would like to speak to the driver who fled the scene. Witnesses, or anyone who may have provided a ride to the driver this morning, are encouraged to contact the Department of Public Safety- Communications Center at (775) 687-0400 regarding case number NHP-120403880, or e-mail Trooper Whitehead directly at twhitehead@dps.state.nv.us.

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