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## **Media Release**

### ***Two Separate Crashes on I-580 near the Spaghetti Bowl Snarl Northbound Traffic***

On October 22, 2013 at approximately 12:43 pm, Troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a motor vehicle crash involving several vehicles on northbound I-580 near the I-80 interchange in Reno.

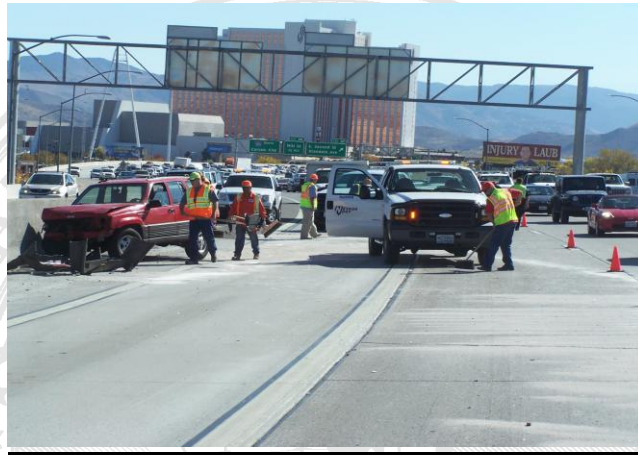
Upon arrival and initially investigating the sequence of events, it was determined that a total of four vehicles were involved in two separate crashes each involving two cars. The initial crash was caused when the driver of a red Jeep Grand Cherokee attempted to make a multi-lane change from I-580 to the transition ramp to eastbound I-80. His SUV struck a portion of the adjacent roadway barrier causing his Jeep to rotate where it struck a gold Subaru Outback station wagon. After the two vehicles collided, they came to rest near the right paved shoulder as the Subaru caught fire. The driver of the Subaru sustained a minor injury to his right arm as a result of the air bag deploying. He was also transporting a few small cartons of pistol ammunition when some of the rounds later ignited as a result of the fire. The driver of the Jeep was not harmed in the event.

Moments after the initial collision, two other northbound vehicles were involved in a separate crash. In that event, the driver of a maroon Lexus SUV made an abrupt lane change and side-swiped a white Honda 2-door sedan. No injuries were reported in the second collision.

Due to the vehicle fire and the fear of the unstable ammunition, all northbound lanes were temporarily blocked as well as the southbound lanes while fire personnel from the Reno Fire Department extinguished the fully engulfed vehicle. Once the fire was out, one northbound lane was opened and all southbound motorists were free to proceed.

Three of the four vehicles were disabled and tow trucks were summoned to remove them. Additionally, there was a significant amount of vehicle fluids and other debris that had to be absorbed and or cleaned up which caused the closure of several northbound travel lanes. Several Nevada Department of Transportation highway workers assisted with the roadway cleanup, as well as deploying a street sweeper to clean the highway surface affected by the crash. All northbound lanes were re-opened at approximately 2:08 pm. Both events are still being investigated so it is unclear this afternoon if any driver will be cited.

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