



Nevada Highway Patrol

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January 5, 2015

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Media Release

Driver Who Caused Fatal Collision on New Year's Day Apprehended

On Thursday, January 1, 2015 Troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to a two vehicle collision that occurred on State Route 431(Mt Rose Hwy) approximately five miles east of Incline Village in Washoe Co.

The crash indicates that a 1998 silver Isuzu Rodeo driven by **34 year old Manuel Mejia-Verduzco** with passenger **40 year old Hugo Soto-Barrios** was traveling westbound on Mt. Rose Hwy when for unknown reasons Mejia-Verduzco allowed the Isuzu SUV to cross over the center line where it struck a blue 2003 Jeep Liberty driven by **27 year old Irma Gouadarram** along with passengers **38 year old Anna Acosta** and **45 year old Norea Maria Pelayo-Garcia** were traveling eastbound on Mt. Rose Hwy.

Mr. Soto-Barrios was transported by helicopter to Renown with critical injuries and later succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. Ms. Gouadarram was transported via ambulance to Renown with non-life threatening injuries and was released from the hospital the next morning. The two passengers of the jeep Ms. Acosta and Ms. Pelayo-Garcia were transported to Renown via helicopter with major injuries. Both are still in serious condition but are recovering from their injuries at Renown.

After the crash Mejia-Verduzco the driver of the Isuzu fled the accident scene on foot. The NHP Multi-Disciplinary Investigation and Reconstruction Team (MIRT) used eyewitness accounts and information from other sources to find the identity and address of Mejia-Verduzco who was seen with Mr. Soto-Barrios during the day shortly before the accident on Mt. Rose Hwy.

When the two NHP investigators Troopers Hildebrand and Garretson arrived at Mr. Mejia-Verduzco's apartment they found him hiding in the bathroom suffering from a broken left arm and broken left leg. He was transported to Renown for his injuries and after he was cleared from the hospital he was transported to the Washoe County Detention Center where he was booked on the charges of; Driving Left of Center, Hit and Run w/Death, Hit and Run w/Injury x3, Failure to give aid and information and No valid D/L

Trooper Karen Garretson of the Nevada Highway Patrol's Multi-Disciplinary Investigation and Reconstruction Team (MIRT) is investigating this incident. Anyone who may have witnessed this incident or who may have information related to this incident is encouraged to reach out to her at (775) 689-4625 or kgarretson@dps.state.nv.us regarding case number NHP-150100100.



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