

Nevada Highway Patrol

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Trooper Duncan Dauber Public Information Officer
Nevada Highway Patrol-Northern Command West
(775) 600-5568 or (775) 689-4680
ddauber@dps.state.nv.us

Media Release

Single Vehicle Rollover Kills One After Driver and Passenger are Ejected in Washoe Valley

On Friday, March 4, 2016 at approximately 6:12 a.m., Troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol were dispatched to what was reported as a single vehicle crash on Interstate 580 in Washoe Valley, north of Bellevue Drive.

The preliminary crash investigation details indicate that a white Dodge pickup driven by 50 year old Sparks resident Oscar Esparza, was traveling southbound on IR580 when he allowed the vehicle to drift to the left and into the inside dirt median. The vehicle overturned ejecting both the driver and female passenger of the vehicle. The pickup then landed back on its wheels and proceeded in a west/southwest direction, crossing both southbound travel lanes before coming to a stop in a field on the west side of IR580.

Esparza was transported to a local Reno hospital by Care Flight. The female passenger (whose name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin) was pronounced deceased at the scene of the crash due to injuries sustained during the incident. Both occupants were believed to have not been wearing their seatbelts at the time of the crash and impairment is under investigation at this time.

IR580 in the area of the crash is a 4 lane highway with two lanes in either direction. There is a dirt median separating both directions of travel and the speed limit is posted at 70 mph.

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 him at (775) 688-2500 or kgarretson@dps.state.nv.us regarding case number NHP-160300279.



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