NORTH Dakota | Highway Patrol
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NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | April 25, 2026

MCKENZIE COUNTY FATAL CRASH UPDATE

Update April 26:

Driver No. 1: Lance Dirk, 62, Dickinson, not injured
Driver No. 2: Tracy Christensen, 63, Watford City, fatality
Road Closure: Due to the crash, Highway 85 was closed from MM 137 to MM 140 from 1:40 p.m. Central time until 5:55 p.m. Central time.

What: Fatality

Where: Highway 85 and 23rd Street Northwest, 1 mile south of Watford City

When: April 25, 2026, at 1:33 p.m.

Road Conditions: Dry

Weather Conditions: Clear

Crash Involvement: Semi vs vehicle

Type of Crash: T-bone

Agencies Involved: North Dakota State Patrol, McKenzie County Sheriff's Office, McKenzie County Fire and Rescue, McKenzie County Ambulance

Vehicle No. 1: 2017 Peterbilt Semi
Driver No. 1: Male, 62, Dickinson, not injured
Restraints: Seat belt in use
Charges: Under investigation

Vehicle No. 2: 1983 Jeep CJ-7
Driver No. 2: Female, 63, Watford City, fatality
Restraints: Seat belt in use

NARRATIVE: On April 25, 2026, at approximately 1:33 p.m., a 2017 Peterbilt semi was traveling southbound on Highway 85 between mile markers 139 and 140, approaching the intersection of 23rd Street Northwest. At the same time, a 1983 Jeep CJ-7 was traveling eastbound on 23rd Street NW toward Highway 85.

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As the Jeep entered the intersection, it was struck by the Peterbilt in a t-bone collision. The driver of the Peterbilt was not injured. The driver of the Jeep sustained fatal injuries as a result of the crash.

The crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota State Patrol.

Contact information: Lt. Jenna Clawson Huibregtse, ndhpsafetyedu@nd.gov, 701-328-2447

Notice: Updates to media releases will be posted on the ND State Patrol website:
https://www.statepatrol.nd.gov/ndhp-news