

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 16, 2026

WARD COUNTY (MINOT) FATAL CRASH UPDATE

June 17 Update:

Driver No. 1: Ariel Contreras, 60, Minot, injured

Driver No. 2: Kenneth Klein, 73, Minot, fatal injuries

What: Fatal crash

Where: US Highway 2, mile marker 148, eastern side of Minot

When: June 16, 2026, 11:43 a.m. central time

Road Conditions: Dry

Weather Conditions: Dry

Crash Involvement: Passenger Car/UTV

Type of Crash: Head-on

Agencies Involved: North Dakota State Patrol, Ward County Sheriff's Office, Minot Police Department, Minot Rural Fire Department, Trinity Health First Response

Vehicle No. 1: 2017 Cadillac XT5

Driver No. 1: Male, 60, Minot, injured

Restraints: Seat belt in use

Charges: None

Vehicle No. 2: 2022 Can Am Maverick X3 UTV

Driver No. 2: Male, 73, Minot, fatal injuries

Restraints: No seat belt or helmet in use

NARRATIVE: On Tuesday June 16, 2026, a 2022 Can Am Maverick X3 UTV was driving the wrong way down an off-ramp near mile marker 148 on US Highway 2 in Minot. The UTV traveled westbound in the eastbound lane of Highway 2. A 2017 Cadillac XT5 was driving

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eastbound on Highway 2 and the UTV and Cadillac collided head-on. The driver of the UTV sustained fatal injuries. The driver of the Cadillac sustained minor injuries.

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 NDHP website:
www.statepatrol.nd.gov/ndhp-news