

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 29, 2026

MERCER COUNTY FATAL PLANE CRASH UPDATE

Update June 30:

Driver No. 1: Michael Hauf, 67, Minot, fatal injuries

What: Fatality Crash

Where: Mercer County Regional Airport

When: June 28, 2026, at 1:45 p.m. Central Time

Weather Conditions: Normal

Crash Involvement: Airplane

Agencies Involved: North Dakota State Patrol, Mercer County Sheriff's Office, Hazen Fire Department, Hazen Ambulance

Vehicle No. 1: 1960 Piper Airplane

Driver No. 1: Male, 67, Minot, fatal injuries

Restraints: Seat belt in use

NARRATIVE: On June 28, 2026, at approximately 1:45 p.m., a 1960 Piper airplane was observed taking off from Mercer County Regional Airport. A short time later, the aircraft was observed attempting to return to the runway with its landing gear redeployed before losing altitude and impacting the ground. The pilot died from injuries sustained in the crash.

The crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota State Patrol and the Federal Aviation Administration.

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