NORTH Dakota | Highway Patrol
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NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | May 18, 2026

WARD COUNTY FATAL CRASH UPDATE

May 19 Update:

Driver No. 1: James Sowers, 74, Minot, serious injuries
Passenger No. 1: Theresa Sowers, 74, Minot, fatal injuries
The names of the juveniles in vehicle 2 will not be released.

What: Fatal crash

Where: Highway 2 and 13th Street SE, Minot

When: Sunday, May 17, 5:32 p.m.

Road Conditions: wet roadway

Weather Conditions: Light rain

Crash Involvement: Two vehicles

Type of Crash: T-bone

Agencies Involved: North Dakota State Patrol, Minot Police Department, Minot Fire Department and Trinity First Response

Vehicle No. 1: 2022 Mini Cooper Countryman
Driver No. 1: Male, 74, Minot, serious injuries
Restraints: Seatbelt in use
Charges: Under investigation

Passenger No. 1: Female, 74, Minot, fatal injuries
Restraints: Seatbelt in use

Vehicle No. 2: 2012 Ford Fusion
Driver No. 2: Juvenile, Glasgow, MT, minor injuries
Restraints: Seatbelt not in use
Charges: Under investigation

HEADQUARTERS | 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 504 | Bismarck, ND 58505
PHONE: (701) 328-2447 | FAX: (701) 328-1717 | StatePatrol.nd.gov

Passenger No. 1: Juvenile, Glasgow, MT, serious injuries
Restraints: Seatbelt not in use

Passenger No. 2: Juvenile, Minot, not injured
Restraints: Seatbelt in use

NARRATIVE: On Sunday, May 17 at approximately 5:32 p.m., a 2022 Mini Cooper Countryman was traveling westbound on Highway 2. A 2012 Ford Fusion was traveling northbound on 13th Street SE. The Mini Cooper collided with the Ford Fusion within the intersection, and both vehicles came to rest in the northwest portion of the intersection. The driver and passenger of the Mini Cooper sustained serious injuries and were transported to Trinity Hospital, where the passenger died of injuries. The driver of the Ford Fusion sustained minor injuries, and one passenger sustained serious injuries; they were transported to Trinity Hospital. The third occupant was not injured.

The names of the juveniles will not be released.

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