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

# BARNES COUNTY INJURY CRASH

**What:** Injury Crash

**Where:** I-94, mile marker 292, Valley City

**When:** May 28, 2026, at 3:57 p.m.

**Road Conditions:** Dry

**Weather Conditions:** Sunny

**Crash Involvement:** Two vehicle / non-contact

**Type of Crash:** Rollover

**Agencies Involved:** North Dakota State Patrol, Barnes County Sheriff's Office, Valley City Police Department, Valley City Fire Department, Barnes County Ambulance, North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, Barnes County Emergency Management, North Dakota Department of Agriculture, Valley City Public Works, North Dakota Department of Transportation

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2004 Chevrolet Silverado
- **Driver No. 1:** Male, 15, Valley City, not injured
- **Restraints:** Seat belt in use
- **Charges:** Under investigation

**Vehicle No. 2:** 2015 Kenworth Semi
- **Driver No. 2:** Male, 55, Hialeah, FL, injured
- **Restraints:** Under investigation
- **Charges:** None

**NARRATIVE:** On May 28, 2026, at 3:57 p.m., a Chevrolet Silverado was merging onto westbound I-94 from the westbound on-ramp at Exit 292 in Valley City. Another vehicle was merging onto I-94 ahead of the Chevrolet Silverado at the same time. A Kenworth semi hauling a load of bee hives was traveling westbound on I-94 in the lane where the on-ramp merges with westbound traffic.

**HEADQUARTERS** | 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 504 | Bismarck, ND 58505
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While merging onto I-94, the Chevrolet Silverado entered the right lane (lane two) and then abruptly attempted to move into the left lane (lane one) to pass the vehicle in front of it. During the lane change, the Kenworth semi was directly alongside the Chevrolet Silverado. The driver of the Chevrolet Silverado did not observe the Kenworth semi and made an improper lane change.

To avoid a collision, the driver of the Kenworth semi took evasive action and swerved left. The semi's driver-side tires entered the median before the driver attempted to steer back onto the roadway. The semi then rolled onto its passenger side. The Chevrolet Silverado and Kenworth semi did not make contact.

The Kenworth semi came to rest on its passenger side on the westbound outside shoulder and across lane two of westbound I-94. The trailer was carrying approximately 600 to 800 bee hives containing an estimated more than two million bees. The hives separated from the trailer during the rollover.

The driver of the Chevrolet Silverado remained on scene following the crash. The driver of the Kenworth semi exited the vehicle under his own power but was immediately attacked by hundreds of bees after escaping the cab. He ran to the nearby Sheyenne River to remove the bees and was later transported by Barnes County Ambulance to Mercy Hospital in Valley City for treatment of hundreds of bee stings. Several local beekeepers responded to assist.

Jim's Towing responded to remove the semi and trailer and coordinated with Site Works Unlimited to remove the destroyed hives using skid steers and side dump commercial vehicles. Recovery operations lasted several hours before the semi and trailer could be removed from the roadway.

Traffic control was coordinated through a lane closure with assistance from the North Dakota Department of Transportation, Barnes County Sheriff's Office, Valley City Police Department, and Valley City Fire Department.

Additional assistance was provided by North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, Barnes County Emergency Management, and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, which assisted in locating local beekeepers to respond to the incident. Valley City Public Works also opened the landfill after hours to accept the destroyed hives for disposal. A lane

closure related to the crash and recovery operations remained in place for approximately eight hours.

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

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**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