

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | October 5, 2026

WARD COUNTY FATAL CRASH UPDATE

Update October 6:

Driver No. 1: Ashton Hawker, 21, Florida, fatal injuries

Driver No. 2: Kevin Meland, 52, Burlington, not injured

Passenger No. 1: Jacob Meland, 25, Minot, not injured

What: Fatality Crash

Where: Highway 83, mile marker 203.5 (3800 Block of North Broadway, Minot)

When: October 4, 2026, at 8:44 p.m. Central Time

Road Conditions: Dry

Weather Conditions: Clear

Crash Involvement: Motorcycle/vehicle

Type of Crash: Rear-end

Agencies Involved: North Dakota State Patrol, Minot Police Department, Minot Fire Department, First Response Ground Ambulance

Vehicle No. 1: 2024 Kawasaki Motorcycle

Driver No. 1: Male, 21, Florida, fatal injuries

Restraints: Helmet in use

Vehicle No. 2: 2008 Chevrolet Silverado pulling trailer

Driver No. 2: Male, 52, Burlington, not injured

Restraints: Seat belt in use

Charges: Under investigation

Passenger No. 1: Male, 25, Minot, not injured

Restraints: Seat belt in use

HEADQUARTERS | 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 504 | Bismarck, ND 58505

PHONE: (701) 328-2447 | FAX: (701) 328-1717 | StatePatrol.nd.gov

NARRATIVE: On October 4, 2026, at approximately 8:44 p.m., a 2024 Kawasaki motorcycle was traveling northbound on Highway 83 near mile post 203.5 on North Broadway in Minot at a high rate of speed. The motorcycle struck the rear of a 2008 Chevrolet Silverado that was towing a boat. The motorcycle came to rest in the east ditch, and the pickup came to rest on the highway. The motorcycle rider was transported to Trinity Hospital with life-threatening injuries and was later pronounced deceased. The occupants of the Chevrolet were not injured. 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