

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | August 23, 2026

CASS COUNTY FATAL CRASH UPDATE 2

Update: August 25:

On Tuesday, August 25, between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m., Cornelio Vasquez IV, 19, of Grand Forks, was taken into custody by the U.S. Marshals Task Force, with assistance from the Grand Forks County Sheriff's Office and Cass County Sheriff's Office. Vasquez is currently being held at the Grand Forks County Jail and will be transported to Cass County. Vasquez faces multiple charges including Class A Felony homicide while fleeing law enforcement; Class B Felony manslaughter; three counts of Class C Felony reckless endangerment with extreme indifference; Class C Felony fleeing a law enforcement officer; and Class B Misdemeanor reckless driving.

Update: August 24:

Driver No. 1: Cornelio Vasquez IV, 19, Grand Forks, injured

Passenger No. 1: Juvenile, 16, Grand Forks, injured-Name will not be released

Passenger No. 2: Juvenile, 17, Grand Forks, injured-Name will not be released

Driver No. 2: Ian Frye, 49, Christine, fatality

What: Fatality

Where: Intersection of County Road 14 and County Road 81

When: August 23, 2026, at 12:15 a.m. Central Time

Road Conditions: Dry

Weather Conditions: Dry/Dark

Crash Involvement: Vehicle vs. vehicle

Type of Crash: T-bone

Agencies Involved: North Dakota State Patrol, Cass County's Sheriff's Office, Fargo Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Office, Southern Valley Fire & Rescue, Sanford Ambulance

Vehicle No. 1: 2018 BMW M550xi

Driver No. 1: Male, 19, Grand Forks, injured

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

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

Restraints: Seat belt in use

Charges: Under investigation

Passenger No. 1: Juvenile, 16, Grand Forks, injured

Restraints: Seat belt in use

Passenger No. 2: Juvenile, 17, Grand Forks, injured

Restraints: Seat belt in use

Vehicle No. 2: 2018 Honda Accord

Driver No. 2: Male, 49, Christine, fatality

Restraints: Seat belt in use

NARRATIVE: On August 23, 2026, at approximately 12:15 a.m., a North Dakota State Patrol trooper attempted to stop a BMW M550xi for traveling 109 mph in a 55-mph zone. The driver of the BMW fled eastbound on Cass County Road 14, turned off the vehicle's headlights, and disregarded a stop sign at the intersection of Cass County Road 81. The BMW struck a Honda Accord traveling southbound on Cass County Road 81. The driver of the Honda died at the scene. The driver of the BMW and its passengers were transported to Sanford Hospital in Fargo with non-life-threatening injuries. The names of the juveniles involved will not be released per N.D.C.C. § 39-08-13(5).

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