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NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | September 14, 2026

CASS COUNTY (FARGO) INJURY CRASH UPDATE

Update September 15:

Driver No. 1: Elijah Baumann, 24, Moorhead, MN, life-threatening injuries
Passenger No. 1: Ty Smith, 21, Fargo, injured
Passenger No. 2: Keniel Mercado, **23**, Fargo, injured
Driver No. 2: Issac Putney, 19, Fargo, life-threatening injuries
Driver No. 3: Frederick Jallah, 29, Fargo, not injured

What: Injury Crash

Where: University Drive and 15th Avenue South, Fargo

When: September 13, 2026, at 7:10 p.m.

Road Conditions: Dry

Weather Conditions: Clear

Crash Involvement: Vehicle/vehicle/motorcycle

Type of Crash: Angle

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

Vehicle No. 1: 2012 Chrysler 300

Driver No. 1: Male, 24, Moorhead, MN, life-threatening injuries
Restraints: No seat belt in use
Charges: Driving Under the Influence, Reckless Endangerment – Extreme Indifference (C felony), Criminal Vehicular Injury (B felony), and charges pending from Cass County Sheriff's Office

Passenger No. 1: Male, 21, Fargo, injured
Restraints: No seat belt in use

Passenger No. 2: Male, 19, Fargo, injured
Restraints: No seat belt in use

Vehicle No. 2: 2007 Harley-Davidson motorcycle
Driver No. 2: Male, 19, Fargo, life-threatening injuries
Restraints: No helmet in use
Charges: None

Vehicle No. 3: 2024 Mercedes-Benz 600
Driver No. 3: Male, 29, Fargo, not injured
Restraints: Seat belt in use
Charges: None

NARRATIVE: On Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 6:50 p.m. law enforcement was dispatched to the Heritage Hills area for a reported street racing group driving recklessly. A Cass County Sheriff's Office deputy observed a Chrysler 300 traveling northbound on South University Drive at 76th Avenue. The Chrysler 300 was driving 120 mph in a 45-mph zone. The deputy activated emergency lights, and the Chrysler fled. The deputy did not pursue the vehicle due to safety considerations.

At approximately 7:10 p.m., the Chrysler 300 was traveling northbound in the southbound lanes of South University Drive at a high rate of speed. The Chrysler continued northbound in the southbound lanes of University Drive and struck a Harley-Davidson motorcycle that was turning west onto 15th Avenue from northbound University Drive. After striking the motorcycle, the Chrysler collided with a Mercedes-Benz traveling southbound on University Drive. The driver of the Chrysler was not wearing a seat belt and suffered life-threatening injuries. The two passengers in the Chrysler were not wearing seat belts and were injured. The driver of the Harley-Davidson was not wearing a helmet and suffered life-threatening injuries. The driver of the Mercedes-Benz was wearing a seat belt and was 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