

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | January 6, 2022

## **Injury crash East of Burlington (Updated to Fatality)**

**What:** Fatality

**Where:** 6900 Block of Ward County Hwy 15

**When:** 12-25-2021 at approximately 1355 Central time

**Road Conditions:** Ice Covered with snow

**Weather Conditions:** snowing

**Crash Involvement:** Vehicle

**Type of Crash:** Roll Over

**Agencies Involved:** NDHP, Ward County, Burlington PD, Burlington Fire, Trinity Ambulance

**Vehicle No. 1:** 2003 Ford F-250

**Driver No. 1:** Matthew Melbarzdis-23 of Minot (Fatality)

**Restraints:** No seatbelt used

**Charges:** no charges filed

**NARRATIVE:** A Ford F-250 Pickup being operated by Matthew Melbarzdis was traveling northbound on Ward County Hwy 15 enroute from Minot to the Burlington area. Road conditions were slippery due to ice and compacted snow. After passing 68<sup>th</sup> St NW Melbarzdis lost control of his vehicle. The Ford entered the east ditch and struck an approach. This caused the Ford to overturn onto its roof pinning Melbarzdis in the Ford.

The Ward County Sheriff's Department along with Burlington PD, Burlington Fire, and Trinity ambulance responded to the crash. Melbarzdis was extracted from his vehicle. On scene EMS began life saving measures and Melbarzdis was transported to the Trinity Hospital where he was treated for injuries sustained in the crash. The NDHP was asked to investigate the crash and on 01-05-2021 the NDHP was informed by family that Melbarzdis died as a result of the injuries he sustained in the crash.

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