

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | February 27, 2024

UPDATED

Traffic Fatality on US-83 near Hazelton

What: Fatal Crash

Where: US-83 at mile marker 41
At the intersection with ND-34/64th St. SE just north of Hazelton

When: February 26, 2024, at approximately 9:30am

Road Conditions: Dry, clear

Weather Conditions: 5 mph wind, 43F

Crash Involvement: Pickup and Semi tractor-trailer

Type of Crash: Right Angle

Agencies Involved: North Dakota Highway Patrol
Emmons County Sheriff's Office
Linton Ambulance Service
Hazelton Fire Department
Braddock Fire Department

Vehicle No. 1: 1999 Peterbilt Tractor hauling loaded grain trailer

Driver No. 1:	Christopher Iszler, Napoleon	Not Injured
Restraints:	Seat belt in use	
Charges:	None, under investigation	

Vehicle No. 2: 1985 Chevrolet K20 pickup

Driver No. 2:	Wayne Schmitcke, Hazelton	Fatal Injuries
Restraints:	Not in use	
Charges:	None	

NARRATIVE: A two-vehicle fatal crash happened on the north side of Hazelton on US-83, at the intersection of 64th St. SE and ND-34. A semi hauling agricultural products was

northbound on US-83 from Linton to Sterling when it collided with the right side of a pickup that was eastbound on 64th St SE, heading toward ND-34. Both roadways intersecting US-83 were posted with stop signs. Both vehicles came to rest, interlocked, in the east ditch to the northeast of the intersection. Wayne Schmitcke, the driver of the pickup, was extricated by Fire and EMS. Mr. Schmitcke was transported by ambulance to the Linton hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The driver of the semi, Christopher Iszler, was not injured and declined medical treatment. This crash is pending investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

For more information, contact:

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