

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | January 23, 2024

Richland County Vehicle Fire

What: Single vehicle crash and resulting fire.

Where: I-29 Mile Marker 44, 1 mile west of Christine, ND

When: January 23, 2024, at approximately 2:30 PM

Road Conditions: Normal

Weather Conditions: Seasonal normal

Crash Involvement: One vehicle / Fire

Type of Crash: Non-Collision, mechanical failure

Agencies Involved: North Dakota Highway Patrol, North Dakota Department of Transportation, Colfax Fire & Rescue, and Christine Fire.

Vehicle No. 1: 2022 Freightliner pulling a 2021 enclosed trailer.

Driver No. 1: Geral Carlos Sala Romero, 40-year-old male, Miami, FL, not injured.

Restraints: Seatbelt not worn; no airbags deployed

Charges: Driving with a suspended driver license.

NARRATIVE: The Freightliner was southbound on I-29 at mile marker 44 when its driver side front steer axle tire blew. Sala Romero was able to pull to the right shoulder, but the truck quickly caught on fire. The driver was able to safely exit before the truck and trailer became engulfed in flames. The trailer was loaded with rubber mats destined for Illinois from Jamestown, ND. Southbound I-29 was closed and detoured for several hours at the Christine Exit while the scene was cleaned and cleared.

After investigation Sala Romero was cited for driving with a suspended license by the NDHP into Richland County District Court. As of 6 PM the scene was still being detoured for cleanup.

For More Information Contact:

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