

NEWS RELEASE | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | January 29, 2024

Minor Injury Crash Involving Emergency Vehicle in Traill County, ND

What: Injury crash

Where: southbound Interstate 29, approximately 2 miles south of Buxton, ND

When: 01/28/2024, approximately 7:45 PM

Road Conditions: Good

Weather Conditions: Clear

Crash Involvement: Vehicle/Vehicle

Type of Crash: Rear-end

Agencies Involved: NDHP, Traill County Sheriff's Office, Buxton Fire, West Traill Ambulance

Vehicle No. 1: 2014 Hyundai Santa Fe
Driver No. 1: Body Cota; male; age 24; of Bemidji, MN; minor injuries
Restraints: Seat belt in use; air bags deployed
Charges: DUI, unlawful possession of controlled substances and paraphernalia

Vehicle No. 2: 2022 Ford Explorer (Traill County Sheriff's Office patrol car)
Driver No. 2: none, vehicle unoccupied
Restraints: N/A
Charges: N/A

NARRATIVE: The Ford Explorer patrol vehicle was parked, unoccupied, at the scene of a traffic incident on southbound Interstate 29, with emergency lights activated to warn motorists of the emergency scene and provide traffic control. Other emergency vehicles were on the scene, and traffic cones were also being used to control traffic.

Cota was driving the Hyundai south on Interstate 29 and failed to take proper precautions as he approached the emergency scene. The front of his vehicle struck the rear of the Ford Explorer.

No responders were injured. Cota sustained minor injuries.

The initial incident had been a one-vehicle rollover crash, in which no injuries occurred.

Driving distracted and driving while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or a combination of alcohol and drugs create hazardous situations on the highways. The Highway Patrol reminds motorists to drive sober, avoid distractions, and to approach emergency scenes or emergency vehicles with caution.

For more information, contact:

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