



NEWSRELEASE

STORY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Paul H. Fitzgerald, Sheriff

Box 265, Nevada, IA 50201

For Immediate Release

Date: July 11, 2014
Contact: Sgt. Gary Backous
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Fatal Motorcycle Collision

Story County, Iowa – At approximately 0541 hours on 7/11/14, the Story County Sheriff's Office received a report of a motorcycle in the ditch with an unresponsive adult male next to it on US Hwy 69 at 300th St, near Huxley, IA. The driver and only known occupant of the motorcycle was Robin Ratashak, (55 years old, Ames, IA). He was pronounced deceased at the scene.

According to investigators it appears the motorcycle left the roadway while traveling northbound on Hwy 69 at a slight curve in the road near 300th St and came to rest in east ditch. The deceased was not wearing a helmet. The exact time of the collision is unknown at this time and the circumstances leading up to the collision are still under investigation. There were no other vehicles involved or injuries to other parties. If you have any information about this incident you are encouraged to contact the Story County Sheriff's Office at (515) 382-6566.

INFORMATION FROM THE INVESTIGATING OFFICERS REPORT OF MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Case Number: 14-000813	Legal Intervention: NO	At Intersection with: "N/A"
Date of Acc: 07/11/14	Private Property: NO	Div HWay Trvl Dir: "N/A"
Time of Acc: 00:01 Hrs.	County: STORY - 85	Distance 1: "N/A"
Name of Agency: STORY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	Acc Loc City: "N/A"	Direction 1: "N/A"
Officer: NAVRATIL JOEL	Acc Dir From City: "N/A"	Distance 2: "N/A"
Badge #: 85-31	Closest City: "N/A"	Direction 2: "N/A"
Report Date: 07/11/2014	Miles From City: "N/A"	X-Coordinate: 00449475
Officer Notified: 05:41 Hrs.	Road, Street, HWay: "N/A"	Y-Coordinate: 04641554
Officer Arrived: 05:48 Hrs.	Definable Location: "N/A"	Location Literal: US HIGHWAY 69 NORTHBOUND,
Scene Investigated: YES	Milepost Number: "N/A"	Description: 1/4 MILE NORTH OF 300TH ST, STORY COUNTY, IA

Unit 001

Driver Name - Last: RATASHAK	Towing: YES	Injury Status: 1 - FATAL
First: ROBIN	Initial Trvl Dir: 1 - NORTH	Transported to: DCI LAB
Middle: PATRICK	Vision Obscured: 01 - NOT OBSCURED	Transported by: BACON FUNERAL HOME
Address: 2034 MELROSE AVE	Traffic Controls: 01 - NO CONTROLS PRESENT	Emergency Veh: 1 - NOT APPLICABLE
City: AMES	Point of Init Impact: 01 - FRONT	Emergency Status: 3 - NOT APPLICABLE
State: IA	Most Damaged Area: 01 - FRONT	Cont. Circum., Drvr: 08 - LOST CONTROL
Zip: 50010	Undrrid/Ovrid: 1 - NONE	Carrier Name:
Suffix:	Rpr/Rplc Cost: \$5,000.00	Carrier Address:
Gender: Male	Ext of Damage: 4 - DISABLING DAMAGE	Carrier City:
Age: 55	First Event: 21 - VEHICLE IN TRAFFIC	Carrier State:
License State: IA	Second Event: 01 - RAN OFF ROAD, RIGHT	Carrier Zip:
License Class: C	Third Event: 33 - DITCH/EMBANKMENT	Cargo Body Type: 01 - NOT APPLICABLE
License Endorsmnt: L	Fourth Event:	Number of Axles:
License Restrictions: B	Most Harmful Event: 01 - RAN OFF ROAD, RIGHT	HazMat Released?:
Speed Limit: 55	Abg Switch Stat: 3 - NO ON/OFF SWITCH PRESENT	GVWR:
Seating Position: 01 - FRONT: LEFT SIDE / MOTORCYCLE DRIVER	Abg Deploy: 6 - NOT APPLICABLE	Placard #:
Driver Condition: 9	Trapped: MEANS	Cit Chrg Code 1:
Alcohol Test Given: NO	Ejection: NOT APPLICABLE	Citation Charge 1:
Drug Test Given: NO	Ejection Path: (MOTORCYCLE BICYCLE ETC) 1 - NOT EJECTED/NOT APPLICABLE	Cit Chrg Code 2:
Total Occupants: 1	Occpnt Protect: 1 - NONE USED	Citation Charge 2:
Vehicle Year: 2009		Cit Chrg Code 3:
Vehicle Make: HARLEY DAVIDSON - HD		Citation Charge 3:
Vehicle Model: LTB FLSTSB		Cit Chrg Code 4:
Vehicle Style: MOTORCYCLE		Citation Charge 4:
Vehicle Config: 14 - MOTORCYCLE		
Vehicle Defect: 99 - UNKNOWN		
Vehicle Action: 01 - MOVEMENT ESSENTIALLY STRAIGHT		

Accident Environment

First Harmful Event Loc: 9 - UNKNOWN	Roadway Characteristics Environment: 1 - NONE APPARENT
Manner of Crash/Collision: 1 - NON-COLLISION	Roadway: 01 - NONE APPARENT
Light Conditions: 5 - DARK, ROADWAY NOT LIGHTED	Type of Road Junc/Feat: 01 - NO SPECIAL FEATURE
Weather Conditions: 01 - CLEAR	Workzone Related: NO
Surface Conditions: 1 - DRY	Location:
First Harmful Evt of Crash: 33 - DITCH/EMBANKMENT	Type:
	Workers Present:

Narrative

The Sheriff's Office received a 911 call at 0541 hours advising of a single vehicle collision involving a motorcycle. Passers by had noticed a motorcycle in the ditch and a person lying nearby. The passers by had stopped and called 911 and went down to check on the motorcycle and the person, and found that the motorcycle was lying on top of the person's head. They removed the motorcycle and found no signs of life. Huxley Police and the Story County Sheriff's Office responded and determined that the rider was deceased. He was not wearing a helmet or any other safety gear. So far no witnesses to the collision have been located. It appears that the collision may have occurred sometime during the night.

Evidence at the scene shows that Unit 1 was northbound on Highway 69 just north of Huxley, when at a slight curve in the roadway to the west, the motorcycle left the roadway, traveling on the right shoulder and then through the ditch for an estimated distance of 110-120 yards before coming to rest. There are no skid marks on the pavement prior to the motorcycle entering, and the angle at which it entered appears to show that the motorcycle did not swerve or fall over while traveling on the pavement, but just continued on a straight path at the curve leading it off the road and into the ditch. There was damage to the motorcycle and it appears that it may have flipped at least once in the grass, close to where it was found at rest, causing it to land on the rider's head. The victim was taken to the DCI Crime Lab and the investigation is continuing.

Please note, this report form does not allow the "Time of Accident" field at the top of the report to be left blank. I entered "0001 hours" to validate the report, it is unknown at this time exactly when the collision occurred.

