



# State of New Mexico

## *Department of Public Safety*

March 27, 2008

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### **FIVE VEHICLE COLLISION ON US 82 CLAIMS ONE LIFE**

Artesia—A water truck rear-ended a Hyundai passenger car waiting with 3 other vehicles in a construction zone.

The crash occurred just outside of Artesia on Wednesday afternoon. Four of the five vehicles were stopped for a flagman just before 1pm on US 82 near mile post 133, just east of Loco Hills.

The collision involved a 1997 Mack truck belonging to Jim's Water Service of Artesia, New Mexico, driven by 27 year old James Crenshaw, of Roswell, a 2001 Mack tanker truck belonging to Navajo Refining in Artesia, driven by 39 year old Roger Simmons, of Roswell, a 2002 Freightliner tanker truck belonging to H& E Equipment Services, driven by 44 year old Edward Montoya, of Los Lunas, a 2005 GMC pickup driven by 48 year old Jerry Mathews, of Artesia, and a 2007 Hyundai Sonata driven by 66 year old Mary L. Stuart, of Artesia.

The Jim's Water Service truck was traveling westbound on US 82 in a marked highway construction zone. The driver, Mr. Crenshaw, failed to recognize that traffic was stopped for the road construction. The water truck rear ended the Hyundai starting a chain reaction collision with the other three vehicles. The water truck maintained contact with the Hyundai and traveled southwest where they came to rest on the south shoulder.

Mr. Crenshaw, was airlifted to University Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas, for treatment of injuries sustained in the crash. The driver of the 2001 Mack tanker truck, Roger Simmons, was transported to the Artesia Medical Center for further

evaluation. Mr. Edward Montoya, the driver of the 2002 Freightliner tanker truck and Mr. Jerry Mathews, the driver of the 2005 GMC pickup, did not sustain any injuries as a result of the crash.

The driver of the Hyundai, Mary L. Stuart, was pronounced deceased at the scene by a deputy Medical Investigator from the Office of the Medical Investigator.

Excessive speed and driver inattention are being investigated as major contributing factors in the crash. Alcohol was not a contributing factor in the crash. Enforcement action is pending further investigation.

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For further information contact: Captain Oscar R. Gonzalez at (575) 622-7200