



State of New Mexico  
*Department of Public Safety*

October 5th, 2009

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**School Bus Avoids Head on Collision**

Cordova – Monday morning State Police Officers were dispatched to a motor vehicle crash involving a school bus in northern New Mexico.

Officers with the Espanola State Police office were dispatched to a bus crash this morning off Rio Arriba County Road 80 near the town of Cordova, NM, just after 0830 AM. Upon the officers' arrival, they learned that 49 y.o. Anthony Baca was traveling on County Road 80 in a 1999 Chevy bus approaching a bend in the road when an oncoming vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed drifted head-on with the bus. Anthony Baca avoided the head-on collision by driving onto the shoulder. The momentum kept the bus traveling off the shoulder and down a 25 foot embankment.

The school bus destined for Mountain View Elementary had 13 passengers ranging in ages from 7 to 11. Some children were medically assessed on scene and some were transported for injuries sustained in the crash, to Espanola. Motor Transportation Police Department officers were later dispatched and assisted in the investigation, with a full inspection of the bus. The inspection showed no discrepancies.

A Hispanic male was identified as the driver of the vehicle that fled the scene. He was driving a late 90's model dark blue Honda Accord with a possible California license plate displayed on the rear of the vehicle. Anyone with information on this is asked to contact the New Mexico State Police at the Espanola office 1-505-753-2277.

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