



State of New Mexico

New Mexico State Police

February 21, 2008
1210 hours
Contact:
Sergeant Andrew Tingwall
Public Information Officer
Pgr. (505) 939-6830

For Immediate Release

FATAL ACCIDENT, INTERSTATE 40 MILE POST 219 W/B **ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT**

New Mexico State Police investigated an accident which included one fatality located on Interstate 40, mile post 219, in the westbound lanes. This is around the Clines Corners area. Investigators believe the vehicle was traveling westbound on Interstate 40 around mile post 219 when the driver of the vehicle, Mr. Eliud Mercado of Indio, California (DOB 12-19-86), when he encountered near white out conditions on the interstate. The vehicle, a 1998 Ford Expedition bearing California 5ZYA608, lost traction and slid off of the interstate to the right, toward the shoulder. The vehicle slid between the road way and the exit ramp and rolled approximately 1.5 times coming to rest on the roof. All of the occupant were ejected from the motor vehicle, accepted the driver, Mr. Eliud Mercado. Investigators do not suspect alcohol as a factor in this accident, yet seatbelts were not used.

Ms. Nohemi Sandoval (DOB 02-04-80) was pronounced deceased at the scene of the accident by the Office of the Medical Investigator. The following persons are all from Indio, California. The names of the others persons in this vehicle are as follows:

Rosaleen Molina, age 1, condition - stable
Isabel Molina, age 2, condition – stable
Jailene Molina, age 12, condition – broken pelvis, broken femur and internal bleeding. She is going to the Operating Room.
Francisco Molina, age 10, condition – stable
Jose Molina, age 3, condition – stable
Wendy Molina, age 7, condition – has a broken pelvis.
Thalia Molina, age 5, condition – stable.

###