



State of New Mexico
Department of Public Safety

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Contact: Lieutenant Robert McDonald
nmsp.pio@state.nm.us

I-40 Crash Claims the Life of San Rafael Resident

McKinley County – On October 18, 2012 at approximately 1:30 a.m., New Mexico State Police Officers responded to a single vehicle crash on Interstate 40 east of Grants, NM.

Officers arrived on scene and found a gray 2004 Chevy SUV several feet south of the eastbound shoulder of I-40. The vehicle had overturned several times before coming to rest.

The driver and sole occupant of the vehicle was identified as Johnny Valdez Jr. (28) of San Rafael, NM. Mr. Valdez was pronounced deceased at the scene as a result of the injuries he sustained in crash.

Officers say he may have fallen asleep at the wheel, due to the fact that there is no evidence indicating anything other than the vehicle simply drifting off the roadway prior to the crash.

Mr. Valdez was apparently not wearing a seatbelt and alcohol does not appear to be a factor.

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