



# DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff   Scott Smith Chief Deputy

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: December 17, 2016

Sheriff Dale J Schmidt

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On Friday, December 16, 2016, the Dodge County Sheriff's Office investigated a traffic crash involving a car that had collided with a parked Wisconsin State Patrol car. The sheriff's office was contacted as an external agency due to the involvement of the Wisconsin State Patrol.

At about 7:32 pm, a Wisconsin State Patrol, District 3 (Fond du Lac), squad car was parked on the median (left) shoulder of the southbound side of I41 near the Dodge County/Fond du Lac County line investigating a traffic incident. The squad was fully marked and the emergency lights were flashing. A tow truck, also with emergency lights flashing, was on the scene removing a vehicle from the median. A southbound car operated by a 23 year old Fond du Lac man merged from the right lane into the left lane as he approached the scene and traffic in front of him in the right lane was slowing. The man's car collided with the Wisconsin State Patrol car during this maneuver. The trooper was seated in the squad car at the time and did not report any injury. The driver of the striking southbound car reported a possible bump to the head. EMS was not called to the scene. At the time of the crash, snow was falling and the interstate was snow-covered and slippery.

The sheriff's office would like to remind all motorists of the law (State Statute 346.072) requiring reduced speeds and moving over when approaching stopped emergency and maintenance vehicles. This is particularly important during winter weather events where there is typically an increase in law enforcement, highway maintenance and tow truck presence on the roads, as well as a greater risk of loss of control on slippery surfaces. Emergency lights should indicate to motorists of a hazard ahead and that speed reduction and extra care should be given when passing the area.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J Schmidt.

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