



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Smith Chief Deputy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 10-26-17

Sheriff Dale J Schmidt

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UPDATE 10-26-2017

The operator of the wrong way vehicle was Mark Harmon, 55, Fennimore, WI. Harmon remained hospitalized from injuries which were not life-threatening after being transferred from the local hospital to a different hospital.

Sam Taubenheim, 29, rural Watertown, was the driver of the northbound car. His current condition was not available.

All lanes were reopened at about 10:40 PM that evening.

WRONG-WAY, SERIOUS INJURY CRASH

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office is currently at the scene of a serious injury traffic crash on STH 16/26 northbound lanes near STH 16 (east), or about a half mile north of the City of Watertown.

At about 7:24 PM, the sheriff's office began taking multiple reports of a vehicle driving southbound in the northbound lanes of STH 16/26 in the Township of Clyman area. Deputies began to respond to try and locate the car. Within about 4 minutes, the wrong way driver struck a northbound car head on, just north of Watertown.

The driver of the wrong-way car, a 55 year old Fennimore, WI man, was transported by ambulance to an area hospital with non-life threatening injuries and was arrested for OWI 4th offense, causing injury. Open containers of alcoholic beverages were observed in the man's car.

The driver of the northbound car that was struck was flown from the scene to a trauma center with serious, but not life-threatening injuries. That driver is a 29 year old rural Watertown man.

There were no passengers in either vehicle. The northbound lanes remain closed at the time of this release while a criminal investigation is conducted. The southbound lanes were initially closed for the helicopter landing zone but reopened. Names will not be released until at least 24 hours following this release. The northbound lanes are expected to be fully reopened by 10 or 11 PM when the vehicle and debris removal process is completed.

The sheriff's office was assisted at the scene by the Watertown Police Department, Watertown Fire and Paramedics, Clyman Fire Department, Flight for Life, and DCERT. The crash remains under investigation by the sheriff's office and their Crash Investigation Team (CIT).

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J Schmidt.

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