



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE



FATAL CRASH IN WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP

Whitewater Township, August 7th, 2016 – Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil reports a single vehicle, fatal auto crash which occurred in the 11000 block of US-50 in Whitewater Township on August 7th, 2016 at 9:10pm.

Tristin W. Stapleton, male, age 20 of Cincinnati, Ohio was operating a 2005 Dodge Ram truck westbound in the 11000 block of US-50. Kaylee E. Merschbach, female, age 18 of Cincinnati, Ohio was a front seat passenger in the truck. Veronica L. Jacobs, female, age 19 of Cincinnati, Ohio was a rear seat passenger in the truck.

As Mr. Stapleton was traveling westbound on US-50, he failed to maintain control of his truck causing it to partially exit off the north side of the roadway. Mr. Stapleton attempted to regain control of his truck but overcorrected causing his truck to rotate counter clockwise. Mr. Stapleton's truck then crossed the center dividing lines, exited the south side of the roadway and struck a utility pole. Mr. Stapleton's truck continued out of control into a ditch which then launched his truck through the air into a wooded area.

The Whitewater and Miami Township Fire Departments responded to the scene and transported Mr. Stapleton and Ms. Jacobs to the University Medical Center where they are both listed in serious condition. During the crash event, Ms. Merschbach was ejected from the truck and sustained fatal injuries.

None of the occupants of the truck were wearing their seat belts at the time of the crash. Speed and alcohol are believed to have contributed to the crash.

The crash remains under investigation by the Hamilton County Sheriff's Traffic Safety Unit.

MEDIA CONTACT: MIKE ROBISON

Regular Business Hours: M - F 8 am - 4 pm, mrobison@sheriff.hamilton-co.org Office (513) 946-6428

Evening or Weekend Hours: Mobile (513) 235-9952

Mugshot Requests: Identification@sheriff.hamilton-co.org or call (513) 946-6230