



PRESS RELEASE

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Traffic Bureau
Accident Investigation Section - Fatal Detail

Douglas C. Gillespie, Sheriff

REPORTING DETECTIVES: T. Hughes / S. Lethbridge / T. Jones / Sgt. O. Chavez
TYPE OF ACCIDENT: Auto / Auto / Auto / Auto / Auto / Fixed Object
LOCATION OF ACCIDENT: N. Buffalo Drive / W. Lake Mead Boulevard
DATE OF ACCIDENT: 09-21-2009 **TIME:** 9:16 p.m. **EVENT #:** 090921-3437

- Number:** 1 **Driver:** Pending Notification **Injury:** Critical
Address: Las Vegas, NV **Age:** 28 year old male
Vehicle Information: 1986 Mazda Pickup

- Number:** 2 **Driver:** Carlos Mendoza **Injury:** None
Address: Las Vegas, NV **Age:** 33 years old
Vehicle Information: 2009 Toyota Camry

- Number:** 3 **Driver:** Melvin Vupuiz **Injury:** None
Address: Las Vegas, NV **Age:** 67 years old
Vehicle Information: 2008 Lexus GX 470

- Number:** 4 **Driver:** Patricia Martinez **Injury:** None
Address: Las Vegas, NV **Age:** 47 years old
Vehicle Information: 2001 Dodge Caravan

- Number:** 5 **Driver:** Angelia Sope **Injury:** Minor
Address: Las Vegas, NV **Age:** 49 years old
Vehicle Information: 2006 Chrysler 300

COLLISION DETAILS:

On September 21, 2009 at approximately 9:16 p.m. a critical injury five vehicle / fixed object traffic collision occurred on N. Buffalo Drive just south of W. Lake Mead Boulevard. Evidence at the scene and witness statements indicate the Mazda was traveling northbound on Buffalo in the far right lane when for unknown reasons the driver of the Mazda failed to maintain his travel lane sideswiping the Toyota, Lexus and Dodge that were stopped in the center northbound lane for a red signal. The Mazda veered back into the far right lane continuing north bound striking the Chrysler which was also stopped for the red signal. The Mazda then continued north crossing Lake Mead Boulevard. The Mazda came to rest on the northeast corner after striking a tree. The Drivers of the Chrysler and the Mazda were transported to UMC with minor to critical injuries This collision remains under investigation by the LVMPD Accident Investigation Detail.