

Ohio State Highway Patrol



MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release: August 27, 2019
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Nine People Injured In Two Vehicle Crash

Jackson Township – On August 28, 2019, at approximately 5:27 P.M., the Lima Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol responded to the report of an injury crash. A two-vehicle injury crash was reported to have occurred on North Rumbaugh Road at the intersection of Bechtol Road in Allen County.

Upon further investigation, it was discovered that a 2015 GMC Yukon operated by 36-year-old Cliff Nickles of Harrod, Ohio was Northbound on North Rumbaugh Road. A 2016 Ford Escape operated by 19-year-old Brianna L. Birchfield of Lafayette, Ohio was Westbound on Bechtol Road. Ms. Birchfield attempted to turn South onto North Rumbaugh Road but failed to yield the GMC Yukon. Both vehicles traveled off the West side of North Rumbaugh Road and came to final rest. The Ford Escape came to final rest on its passenger side, whereas the GMC Yukon came to final rest on all four wheels.

Mr. Nickles and a front seat passenger, 35-year-old Jessica N. Nickles of Harrod, Ohio suffered non-life threatening injuries and were transported by emergency medical services to Mercy Health-St. Rita's. Also, four minor children in the GMC Yukon sustained non-life threatening injuries and were transported by emergency medical services to Mercy Health-St. Rita's.

Ms. Birchfield sustained non-life threatening injuries and was transported to Lima Memorial Hospital by emergency medical services. Her front-seat passenger 21-year-old Austin A. Graymire of Lafayette, Ohio was extricated by mechanical means and transported to Lima Memorial Hospital by emergency medical services. A rear-seat passenger 21-year-old Antonio W. Van Waning of Lafayette, Ohio was extricated by mechanical means and transported to Lima Memorial Hospital by emergency medical services. Both Mr. Van Waning and Mr. Graymire sustained non-life threatening injuries as a result of the crash.

Alcohol and drug are not suspected to be a factor in the crash. Properly adjusted safety restraints and child safety restraints minimized injuries. The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted at the scene by the Allen County Sheriff's Office, Lafayette-Jackson Fire Department, Lafayette-Jackson EMS, Harrod Fire Department, Harrod EMS, A&D Towing, and Minich Towing.

The crash remains under investigation. The State Patrol reminds motorists always to wear a properly adjusted safety restraint and always to place children in a proper restraint system.