

# MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release: April 28, 2020  
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## State Patrol Investigates Fatal Crash in Putnam County

Jackson Township – The Ohio State Highway Patrol’s Lima Post is investigating a two vehicle fatal crash. The crash occurred at approximately 1:14 P.M. on Tuesday April 28, 2020. The crash was located at State Route 114 and County Road 19, in Putnam County.

John Barnhart, age 29, of Cloverdale Ohio, was northbound on Country Road 19. Mr. Barnhart was driving a white 1996 Chevrolet Lumina. Mr. Barnhart approached the intersection of State Route 114 and did not stop at a posted stop sign. He struck a gray 2019 Chevrolet Trax. The Trax driven by Shari Dotson, age 48, of Continental Ohio, was traveling eastbound on SR 114. After impact, both vehicles left the northeast corner of the intersection. Ms. Dotson’s vehicle struck the corner of the house, at 18980 State Route 114, ejecting her from the vehicle.

Mr. Barnhart was transported from the scene by Putnam County EMS. He was taken to Mercy Health St. Rita’s Lima with serious injuries. Ms. Dotson was transported from the scene by Putnam County EMS. She was taken to Mercy Health St. Rita’s Putnam County Ambulatory Care with serious injuries. Ms. Dotson, was pronounced dead at the medical facility. Mr. Barnhart was wearing his seat belt while Ms. Dotson was not.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted by the Putnam County Sheriff’s Office, Putnam County Coroner, Kalida Police Department, Kalida Fire Department, Putnam County EMS, Ohio Department of Transportation and Meyer’s Towing.

The crash remains under investigation. The Highway Patrol would like to remind motorists to always wear a seatbelt.

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