



**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Arlington, Wisconsin
HWY20FH006**

CRASH INFORMATION

Location: Interstate 39 (I-39) mile-marker 120.5, near Township of Arlington, Columbia County, Wisconsin

Vehicle 1: 2013 Freightliner truck-tractor, 2017 Utility semitrailer

Operator 1: 55-year-old male (fatal)

Carrier: K Express Inc., Bensenville, Illinois

Vehicle 2: 2021 Kia Seltos Sport Utility Vehicle

Operator 2: 72-year-old male (fatal)

Vehicle 3: 2006 Volkswagen Passat sedan

Operator 3: 59-year-old female (fatal)

Vehicle 4: 1999 Chevrolet Malibu sedan

Operator 4: 23-year-old female (fatal)

Vehicle 5: 2018 Ford F-150 pickup truck

Operator 5: 50-year-old male (serious injury)

Passenger: 10-year-old-male (serious injury)

Vehicle 6: 2018 Mack dump truck

Operator 6: 24-year-old male (serious injury)

Carrier: Manthe Lawn Care, K5 Enterprise, DeForest, Wisconsin

Vehicle 7: 2020 Peterbilt truck-tractor, 2014 Utility semitrailer

Operator 7: 52-year-old female (uninjured)

Carrier: Transx LTD, Eagan, Minnesota

Vehicle 8: 2020 Volvo truck-tractor, 2007 Utility semitrailer
Operator 8: 51-year-old male (uninjured)
Carrier: Medtrans LLC, Mundelein, Illinois

Date: June 12, 2020
Time: 6:45 a.m. (local time)

CRASH SUMMARY

On Friday, June 12, 2020, about 6:45 a.m. central daylight time, a 2013 Freightliner truck-tractor in combination with a 2017 Utility semitrailer was traveling north on Interstate 39 (I-39) at mile-marker (MM) 120.5 near the Township of Arlington, Columbia County, Wisconsin about 18 miles north of Madison, WI. A traffic queue had formed from two earlier crashes about 2 miles north near exit 119. The first crash occurred at 3:31 a.m., when a truck-tractor and semitrailer combination unit, traveling north on I-39, stopped on the right shoulder at mile marker 119. Another truck-tractor semitrailer combination unit, traveling north in the far-right lane, drifted toward the shoulder and side-swiped the stopped combination unit.

Two Wisconsin State Patrol (WSP) officers and a Columbia County worker were attending to the first crash. One of the WSP vehicles was parked in the right lane, with its emergency lights on. A flare pattern had been set up to divert traffic from the right lane. The second crash occurred at 4:51 a.m. at MM 119.5, when a straight truck traveling north in the right lane collided with the parked WSP patrol car.¹ The WSP officers and the county worker were seriously injured by crash debris. The truck driver had minor injuries.

A third crash, involving multiple vehicles, occurred about 6:45 a.m. It began when the northbound 2013 Freightliner struck a 2021 Kia sport utility vehicle (SUV) at the end of the traffic queue. That crash led to collisions with a 2006 Volkswagen sedan, a 1999 Chevrolet sedan, a 2018 Ford pickup, a 2018 Mack dump truck, a 2020 Peterbilt truck tractor in combination with a 2014 Utility semitrailer, and a 2020 Volvo truck tractor in combination with a 2007 Utility semitrailer. As a result of the multiple-vehicle crash, the drivers of the 2013 Freightliner combination unit, 2021 Kia SUV, 2006 Volkswagen sedan, and 1999 Chevrolet sedan were fatally injured. The 2018 Mack dump truck driver and driver and passenger in the 2018 Ford pickup truck were seriously injured. The drivers of the 2020 Peterbilt and the 2020 Volvo truck-tractor combination units were uninjured. The posted speed limit near the crash site is 70 mph.

¹ A traffic incident management plan was implemented immediately after the second crash. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) displayed “Freeway Closed 15 Miles Ahead Expect Severe Delays” on a variable message sign in advance of a portable changeable message sign displaying “Accident Scene Ahead, Be Prepared to Stop,” in advance of signs displaying “Emergency Scene Ahead” that were placed before the traffic queue and the two crash scenes. The 2013 Freightliner drove past all the warning signs before crashing into the traffic queue.