



## **CRASH SUMMARY**

**Avenal, CA**

**HWY21FH003**

(2 Pages)

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About 8:00 p.m. Pacific standard time on Friday, January 1, 2021, a 2013 Dodge Journey sport utility vehicle (SUV), occupied by a 28-year-old driver, was traveling south on State Route 33 (SR-33) in Fresno County near Avenal, California. The driver had just departed a New Year's Day gathering and traveled about 1.2 miles from the party location when the SUV approached a 2007 Ford F-150 extended-cab pickup truck traveling north in the opposite lane of travel. The lanes were separated by a broken yellow centerline and the highway had a posted speed limit of 55 mph. The pickup truck was occupied by a 34-year-old driver and seven passengers, ranging in age from 6 to 15 years old. The driver and child-age passengers were returning from a trip to Pismo Beach, California.

About 1 mile north of the Kings County line, the SUV departed the roadway to the right, traveling over the west asphalt shoulder and then onto the adjacent dirt and gravel shoulder. As the driver steered left to reenter the roadway, the SUV yawed counterclockwise and crossed into the northbound lane, colliding with the front and left side of the oncoming pickup truck. After impact, both vehicles rotated counterclockwise. The SUV came to rest facing in a northeasterly direction with its damaged front end over the highway centerline. The pickup truck caught fire and came to rest in a dirt and grass area east of the roadway, facing in a westerly direction.

As a result of the crash, the driver of the SUV and all eight occupants in the pickup truck were fatally injured.