



*For Immediate Release:* September 21, 2022  
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### *Sheriff's Office Investigating Fatal State Route 31 Crash*

On Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at approximately 12:45 pm, the Union County Sheriff's Office received a 9-1-1 call reporting a serious injury crash on State Route 31, just north of State Route 347. Deputies and units from the Northwestern Fire District and the Marysville Fire Department responded to the scene and found a silver 2008 Toyota Tundra and a red 2006 Freightliner Semi, that was hauling an empty trailer used to transport intermodal containers, had collided on the roadway. The driver of the Toyota was extricated from the vehicle by Fire and EMS crews and was flown to The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center by MedFlight with critical injuries. The driver of the Freightliner was transported by the Marysville Fire Department to Memorial Hospital with serious injuries. There were no other occupants in the vehicles.

The preliminary investigation has determined the Freightliner Semi was driving northbound on State Route 31 and drove left of center, striking the Toyota Tundra which was driving southbound. Alcohol and drugs do not appear to be factors in the crash. Both drivers were wearing seatbelts at the time of the crash. The driver of the Toyota, Michael N. Wright, age 60 of Ashland, Ohio; passed away at OSU Hospital at approximately 9:20 pm last evening. The driver of the Freightliner Semi was transferred to Riverside Methodist Hospital and is listed in stable condition this morning.

The Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by units from the Multi-County Crash Investigation Team, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, and the Ohio Department of Transportation. The crash remains under investigation and charges are under review.

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#### Crash Scene Photo:

