



State of New Mexico  
*Department of Public Safety*

October 21st, 2009

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**Single Vehicle Roll-Over Kills Two**

Chama – 45 y.o. Joe Valdez of Dulce, NM and 38 y.o. Charlene Gonzales of Albuquerque, NM were killed in a fatal roll-over near Chama yesterday afternoon.

State Police Officers responded to a vehicle crash on State Road 112 just after 4:00 PM. Upon the officers arrival they learned that Joe A. Valdez and Charlene Gonzales were in a 1988 Ford Ranger pulling a camper trailer near mile marker 32. The vehicle drifted off the roadway for an unknown reason then crossed back onto east bound lanes, putting the vehicle and trailer into a jack knife. The trailer subsequently broke loose and the pick-up went into a roll-over ejecting all three occupants. The investigation continues to identify the driver of the vehicle.

Medical Investigator pronounced Charlene Gonzales and Joe A. Valdez deceased on scene; they both will be transported to the Albuquerque OMI office for autopsy. The third occupant 49 y.o. Anthony Montoya sustained injuries and was transported to Espanola Valley Medical Center for treatment. Alcohol and failure to wear seatbelts were contributing factors in the crash.

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