

**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**[Travel](#) [Trade](#) [Border Security](#) [Newsroom](#) [About CBP](#) [Careers](#) [Employee Resources](#)[Home](#) » [Newsroom](#) » [Speeches and Statements](#) »

Two die in vehicle accident transporting undocumented migrants in New Mexico

**Newsroom**[Accountability and  
Transparency](#)[Legal Notices](#)[Advisories](#)[Media Releases](#)[Photo Gallery](#)[Video Gallery](#)[Press Officers](#)[Publications](#)[Social Media  
Directory](#)[Speeches/Statements](#)[Spotlights](#)[Stats and  
Summaries](#)[COVID-19](#)

## Two die in vehicle accident transporting undocumented migrants in New Mexico

**Release Date:** Sat, 08/06/2022 - 12:00

El Paso Sector

**For More Information:**

Contact Landon Hutchens (202) 407-4241

On July 27, 2022, at approximately 4:05 a.m., a Border Patrol agent driving an unmarked U.S. Border Patrol vehicle was conducting roving patrol duties on New Mexico Highway 9 and observed a Tahoe driving westbound near mile marker 144. The agent observed the vehicle drive past his location heading eastbound on HW 9 and the vehicle appeared to be carrying more weight than when he initially observed it. The agent proceeded to follow the vehicle and noticed that it was driving slower than the normal rate of speed for the highway.

The agent continued following the vehicle for approximately two miles, towards the intersection of HW9 and Pete Domenici Boulevard. Just before arriving at the intersection, the agent attempted to stop the vehicle by activating his unmarked Border Patrol vehicle's emergency lights at approximately 4:37 a.m., but the driver of the Tahoe turned north on Pete Domenici Boulevard. The vehicle continued driving at the speed limit but ignored the agents emergency lights, so the agent activated his vehicle's siren and the driver of the vehicle accelerated, failed to yield, and continued driving north on Pete Domenici Boulevard. Due to the high rate of speed the vehicle was going, the agent deactivated his vehicle's emergency lights and siren and discontinued following the vehicle but continued driving north on Pete Domenici Boulevard.

A Supervisory Border Patrol agent driving an unmarked vehicle was monitoring the radio communications and was driving in the vicinity of Pete Domenici Boulevard

**Press Officer****Name:** [Landon Hutchens](#)**Email:**[Landon.R.Hutchens@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:Landon.R.Hutchens@cbp.dhs.gov)**Phone:**

+1 915-834-8547

and Strauss Road. The supervisory agent observed the suspect vehicle approaching behind him and decided to turn east on Airport Road to avoid the suspect vehicle. The driver of the suspect vehicle also turned east on Airport Road and continued to drive behind the supervisory agent. The driver of the suspect vehicle drove around the supervisory agent's vehicle utilizing the shoulder lane and continued driving eastbound on Airport Road at a high rate of speed. The supervisory agent continued driving east on Airport Road and did not activate his Border Patrol vehicle's emergency equipment. The supervisory agent observed a cloud of dust and vehicle headlights pointing up at approximately 4:41 a.m..

The supervisory agent immediately requested emergency medical services and the assistance of other agents in the area due to what he believed was a vehicle accident. When he arrived at the intersection of Airport Road and McNutt Road he observed the suspect vehicle in a ravine on the side of the road and realized that power lines were down across the road due to having struck a utility pole. Additional agents arrived at the crash site and blocked traffic to prevent civilians from striking the downed power lines.

A short time later, the Sunland Park Fire Department, EMS, and Border Patrol Search Trauma and Rescue agents arrived on the scene and started tending to the injured occupants of the vehicle. There were a total of 13 suspected undocumented migrants in the suspect vehicle. EMS Medics transported four migrants to the Las Palmas Medical Center in El Paso, Texas, for further medical evaluation and additional medics transported six migrants to the University Medical Center in El Paso, Texas. One migrant was uninjured and transported to the Santa Teresa Border Patrol station. Two migrants trapped underneath the suspect vehicle, both citizens of Mexico, were declared deceased on the scene by EMS medical personnel.

This incident is being investigated by the New Mexico State Police, Homeland Security Investigations, and is under review by the CBP Office of Professional Responsibility. DHS Office of Inspector General was also notified.

###

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the comprehensive management, control, and protection of our nation's borders, combining customs, immigration, border security, and agricultural protection at and between official ports of entry.*

**Tags: [Accountability and Transparency](#)**

**Last Modified: August 8, 2022**

Click 'Share This Page' button to display social media links.