



# News Release

## Ceres Police Department

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### NEWS RELEASE

February 12, 2018

Ceres Police Department

Public Information Unit

Office of Chief Brent Smith

Ceres, CA – On February 12, 2018, at approximately 2:00a.m., our communications center received a call of a collision in the 2000 block of Hatch Road. Officers arrived shortly after and located two vehicles involved. Officers quickly discovered a male driver of a 2003 Honda Accord was deceased. Additionally, they discovered a female driver of a 2017 Jeep Sport was in grave condition. Unfortunately, the driver of Jeep was pronounced deceased minutes later at the scene by medical officials. There were no passengers in either of the two vehicles.

Preliminary investigation has revealed the Honda was traveling west bound on Hatch, crossed over and continued to travel west in the east bound lanes. The Jeep was on Hatch in the east bound lanes. The vehicles collided head-on and came to a rest. Both drivers were identified by the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department Coroner Division. The driver of the Honda was identified as 28 year old Francisco Verdugo-Garcia, of Modesto. The driver of the Jeep was identified as 65 year old Hope Granados, of Ceres. Both were transported to the Stanislaus County Coroner's Office for an examination as to the cause of death.

The Ceres Police Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team was summoned to the scene to take over the investigation. A comprehensive investigation will be conducted by investigators. Anyone with information about this collision is encouraged to call Traffic Officer Ortiz at 209-538-5678.

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Crime Stoppers Tip Line: 1-866-60-CRIME(27463) or 209-521-4636