

# 2 elderly drivers killed in crashes

## Topeka woman injured in I-70 accident Wednesday morning

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Two elderly drivers were killed in separate car crashes Wednesday afternoon on Kansas highways, while a Topekan was injured in an accident earlier in the day.

One crash occurred at 3:02 p.m. Wednesday on southbound Interstate 35 in Coffey County, according to the Kansas Highway Patrol.

In that accident, a 2011 Chevrolet Impala being driven south on I-35 left the road and crossed into the center median, where it overturned and came to rest.

The driver of the Impala, identified as George Halder, 78, of Minneapolis, Minn., was pronounced dead at the scene. He was wearing a seat belt, the patrol said.

A passenger in the car, Francis Halder, 84, of Bird Island, Minn., was reported to have suffered disabling injuries. He was taken to Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center in Topeka. He also was wearing a seat belt.

Another fatality accident was reported at 4:15 p.m. Wednesday on US-24-40 highway in Leavenworth County, about three miles north of the Douglas-Leavenworth county line.

The patrol said a 2002 Ford Ranger, which was westbound on the two-lane highway, went left of center and struck the driver's side front end of a 2002 Dodge Caravan minivan that was eastbound on the roadway.

Upon impact, the Ford overturned onto the driver's side in the west ditch, while the Dodge came to rest facing southwest in the eastbound lane.

The driver of the Ford, identified as Thomas Dale Holland, 86, of Basehor, was pronounced dead at the scene. He wasn't wearing a seat belt, the patrol said.

The driver of the Dodge, Caitlyn A. Coon, 19, of Basehor, suffered disabling injuries and was taken to The University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City, Kan. She was wearing a seat belt.

A Topeka woman was injured in an accident that occurred at 7:32 a.m. Wednesday on the Kansas Turnpike in Douglas County.

In that accident, which occurred west of Lawrence, Audrey Nicole Balthazor, 32, of Topeka, was injured when she lost control of her 2005 Ford pickup truck west of Lawrence. The truck went into the ditch and overturned.

Balthazor, who was wearing a seat belt, was taken to an area hospital for treatment of her injuries.

Source: <http://cjonline.com/news/2013-01-31/2-elderly-drivers-killed-crashes>