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Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office ***NEWS RELEASE***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Driver Strikes Disabled Vehicle, Woman Ejected Vehicle Narrowly Misses Deputy by Inches



Milwaukee, WI – Today at about 9:40 a.m., deputies were dispatched to a disabled vehicle facing the wrong way on US-45 northbound at Burleigh Street in the median distress lane. The 2006 Nissan Sentra had spun out while trying to avoid a truck that drifted toward her vehicle. A deputy positioned her squad to protect the scene, with emergency lights activated.

As the deputy approached the vehicle, the driver began to open her door, and another vehicle, a 2011 Mitsubishi, travelling at a high rate of speed, lost control and careened between the squad and disabled vehicle, struck the median wall and crashed head-on into the Nissan. The striking vehicle came within inches of also striking the deputy. The 24-year-old woman in the Nissan was ejected by the force of the impact, landing on the freeway. She sustained serious injuries to her face and other injuries, and was transported to Froedtert Hospital by a Wauwatosa medical unit.

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Larry E. Ferries, age 61, of Illinois, faces potential misdemeanor charges of Reckless Driving Causing Bodily Harm, which carries a penalty of up to one year in jail. If the victim's medical condition shows broken bones or more serious internal injury, the charge may be amended to a felony charge of Reckless Driving Causing Great Bodily Harm, with up to 3 ½ years in prison possible upon conviction. Ferries was also cited for failure to move over for an emergency vehicle.

The Sheriff's Office gave repeated reminders over the weekend about road conditions requiring drivers to slow down. The Move Over Law requires drivers to move over one lane or slow down when passing emergency responders and highway vehicles stopped on the freeway. This crash was a close call for the deputy.

There is State Traffic Operation Center video footage available of the crash.

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