



MIKE LUKAS  
*Sheriff*

# OFFICE OF SHERIFF • PORTAGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

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## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Sent: Friday, November 23, 2018, 11:00 AM

### **Two Vehicle Fatal Crash in Town of Amherst Sheriff's Office Urges Motorists to Watch for Changing Highway Conditions**

On November 22, 2018, at approximately 6:24 PM, the Portage County Sheriff's Office Communications Center received a 9-1-1 call of a two vehicle crash on US Highway 10 near County Highway B in the Town of Amherst.

Upon arrival, deputies discovered that a full-sized Dodge Ram pick-up truck towing a loaded utility trailer, was eastbound on Highway 10 crossing the bridge over Highway B. The driver of the truck, 58 year old Douglas Curley from Allenton, Wisconsin, lost control of his vehicle and entered the median. Once in the median, the trailer detached from the truck, and the truck became airborne entering the westbound lanes.

A Jeep Cherokee, operated by 61 year old Michael Shimeta from Cudahy, along with his passenger, 62 year old Terry Scheer from Franklin, was westbound on Highway 10, when the Dodge landed partially on the Jeep, before rolling off and striking the outside guardrail.

Emergency crews arrived and extricated the two occupants of the Jeep, who were transported to Saint Michael's Hospital with serious injuries. Curley did not survive the crash, and was the only occupant of the Dodge.

An initial investigation reveals that the bridge decking may have become slippery, and the operator of the Dodge failed to maintain control for the speed he was operating at. The Sheriff's Office Technical Crash Investigation Team was sent to the scene to continue the investigation.

The westbound lanes of Highway 10 remained closed for approximately four hours. Also at the scene were units from the Portage County Ambulance Service, Wisconsin State Patrol, Portage County Traffic Incident Management Team, and fire and EMS units from the Amherst Fire District.

The crash remains under investigation by the Portage County Sheriff's Office along with the Portage County Coroner's Office.

The Portage County Sheriff's Office takes this opportunity to caution motorists about the slippery and unpredictable nature of bridge overpasses, and urges drivers to reduce their speed as changing conditions warrant. Warning signs posted at bridges reminding drivers that bridges may be icy should be taken seriously.

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