

Current Event

Summary

This article was taken from the Des Moines Register. The article is about a young couple that died in a collision with a semi-truck near Indianola early in the morning. The couple, in their 30's, crossed the center line on Highway 65 and were struck head-on and temporarily closed down the highway. The semi-truck driver was not injured. The couple is survived by 3 children, and the mother is a teacher at Indianola Middle School. Counseling for students and staff was being offered in the district where the mother taught and the kids attend school.

Reaction

I can use this article in a number of ways. First, although the crash is still under investigation indicators show that couple had some sort of driver error as the vehicle crossed the center line. Students could speculate on possible causes such as drunk driving, distracted driving, driving while tired, or hazardous road conditions. This type of activity would open awareness for students about improper ways of driving and ways to handle non-ideal driving conditions. Second, students could relate to what it would feel like to lose someone close to them such as a parent, sibling, or even a teacher due to an accident. Being a teacher, I have seen a handful of students die due to vehicular-related accidents. It is tough EVERY time that happens. Humanizing driving can be difficult, but every accident involves someone's parent, child, or friend. Having students put themselves in the position of the semi-truck driver would also be insightful. Being on the surviving end of an accident would have long-lasting effects. Not to take away from the grief of the family that experienced the loss, but the semi-truck driver has to deal with the trauma and deaths of two people for the rest of his life. He will be forever connected to this couple, their children, and this accident. He did not choose for the driver to possibly make a driving error into his semi-truck; he was doing everything right according to the article. Understanding other perspectives is tough for young adults, but it is a skill necessary for them to become responsible drivers.

Indianola couple dies in early morning crash

Charly Haley March 7, 2017 |

Two people died when their car collided head-on with a semi-truck south of Indianola early Tuesday morning, authorities said. At about 3:50 a.m., a car driving southbound on U.S. Highway 65/69 crossed the center line and collided head-on with the semi, according to an Iowa State Patrol report released about 11:30 a.m. The car's driver, Joseph F. Greubel, 36, and his wife, passenger Ashley R. Greubel, 32, both of Indianola, died at the scene. The couple is survived by three children. The cause of the crash is still under investigation, said State Patrol Lt. Robert Hansen. The semi's driver, Bruce R. Sprague, 31, of Chariton was not injured, according to the report. Ashley Greubel was a special education teacher at Indianola Middle School since 2013, said Art Sathoff, superintendent for Indianola schools. "(She was) just a tremendous teacher," Sathoff said. "She is one of those teachers that had such an impact. She had a real heart for kids." The Greubels are survived by three children who are students at Indianola schools, he said. The school district offered counseling to all students and staff members Tuesday morning after the accident. The crash forced the closure of Highway 65/69 for hours, as State Patrol investigated the scene. The road was reopened by 9 a.m.