Sheriff Steve Stovall
Stephenson County Sheriff's Office

For Immediate Release
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SERIOUS INJURY TRAFFIC CRASH – U.S. ROUTE 20

On November 25, 2026, at approximately 1:34 a.m., the Stephenson County Sheriff's Office received an automated crash detection alert from a cellular phone reporting a possible traffic crash on U.S. Route 20 West at Galena Road in rural Lena, Illinois.

Responding deputies located two vehicles that had been involved in a head-on collision. Preliminary investigation indicates that an eastbound passenger car crossed the centerline of U.S. Route 20 and collided with a westbound sport utility vehicle (SUV).

As a result of the collision, the SUV overturned and came to rest upside down in the ditch on the south side of U.S. Route 20. Responding deputies located the driver of the SUV unresponsive and entrapped inside the vehicle. Deputies were able to force entry into the vehicle and extricate the driver.

Both drivers, adult females who were the sole occupants of their respective vehicles, sustained serious injuries and were transported to an area hospital by UW Health Med Flight helicopters. At the time of this release, one driver was reported to be in critical condition and the other in stable condition.

The Illinois State Police Traffic Crash Reconstruction Unit (TCRU) responded to the scene and assumed responsibility for the crash investigation.

Due to the severity of the injuries and the preliminary nature of the investigation, additional identifying information concerning the individuals involved is being withheld at this time.

The Stephenson County Sheriff's Office would like to acknowledge and thank the Illinois State Police Traffic Crash Reconstruction Unit, the Lena Fire Department, Leamon's Ambulance Service, and UW Health Med Flight for their assistance.

The investigation remains ongoing.

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