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Fatal Crash Again Highlights Problems of Female-Involved DUI.

TORRANCE, CA (May 24, 2016) – The tragedy of a crash on Highway 41 in Madera County which killed a Lemoore man and injured three others has again highlighted the growing problem of female-involved DUI.

California Highway Patrol reports that the crash was caused by a 23-year-old Clovis woman who was “highly intoxicated” and driving at high speed when she crashed into the back of a Hummer H3, killing 47-year-old Frederico Nunez Silva. The woman, who is 6-months pregnant, was booked into the Madera County jail on suspicion of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and other DUI-related offenses.

For Stephanie Tombrello, Executive Director of SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A., this crash is part of a growing trend. “We know that women are becoming involved in drunk- and drug-impaired driving in increasing numbers. These tragedies are very complex, but one terrible consequence is that many children also are becoming caught up in these deadly situations as their mothers or female caretakers take risks not only with their own lives but with the lives of the children in their care.”

This is the first case that Tombrello has come across of a pregnant woman indicted for DUI. “Most expectant moms at six months of pregnancy are focused on the health and wellbeing

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of their unborn child which is why we recommend this as the ideal time for parents to think about purchasing their first safety seat. It's a terrible tragedy that this unborn baby has been put at such high risk by its mother.

“Unborn children are very vulnerable in any crash – it is estimated that 5 times as many unborn children as infants die in crashes. For a long time our education for expectant mothers has focused on know how to protect babies through buckling up correctly while pregnant. It's shocking to think that some babies need to be protected from the recklessness of their own mother driving drunk.”

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. campaigns to raise awareness of the growing impact of DUI on children, supported by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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