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(Neb.)-Driver In Fatal Accident May Have Been Texting

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 02/06/2013 08:16 AM

(Scottsbluff)-Court documents indicate a Cheyenne man was driving at just short of 100 miles per hour, was legally intoxicated and possibly texting just prior to a fatal rollover that killed two Scottsbluff teenagers. According to KNEB in Scottsbluff, four felony charges have been filed against 22 year old Ethan Kaufman, who was driving the vehicle that had six passengers when it crashed January 9th near the Wyoming/Nebraska state line. Circuit Court Judge Randall Arp set bond at \$50,000 cash.

The documents says Stetson Allen told authorities Kaufman had a phone in his hand and was possibly texting right before the accident. The documents indicate the females in the car told Kaufman to slow down a couple times before the crash. The documents also indicate Kaufman lied to the investigating trooper about being a passenger in the pickup before an EMS responder said Kaufman told her he was the driver, and others confirmed it.

The arrest affidavit says the investigation by the Wyoming Highway Patrol indicates the vehicle's Crash Data Retrieval System showed it was traveling at 99 mph just prior to the accident. The document says Kaufman's blood alcohol content two hours after the accident was measured at .08%, the reading required for someone to be legally intoxicated.

Kaufman is charged by the Goshen County Attorney's office with two counts of aggravated homicide by a vehicle in the deaths of 18 year old Alexis Wheeler and 19 year old Hallie Anderson. Kaufman is also charged with drunk driving causing serious bodily injury regarding two of the passengers, 19 year old Tyler Hill of Lyman and Stetson Allen of Morrill.

(Story courtesy of KNEB)