Des Moines woman killed in head-on crash

A Des Moines woman was killed in an accident on Hwy. 330 on Wednesday, March 12.

Elsie "Marie" Houdesheldt, 87, was pronounced dead at the scene by Marshall County Medical Examiner David Bethel. Houdesheldt apparently mistakenly entered the northbound lanes of Hwy. 330, a 4-lane divided highway, and traveled southbound into oncoming traffic.

Approximately one mile south of Hwy. 30, the victim's vehicle collided head on with a northbound vehicle driven by Karla Stanze, 51, Marshalltown. A second northbound vehicle, driven by Shane Goshon, 18, Marshalltown, then struck the Houdesheldt vehicle.

Stanze was transported to the Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center by ambulance. Seatbelt usage and the vehicle's airbag were credited with lessening Stanze's injuries. Houdesheldt was reportedly not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the collision.

The incident remains under investigation by the Marshall County Sheriff's Office.

Rhodes and Melbourne First Responders, along with the State Center Fire Department, were dispatched to the accident.