



R. Glenn Boyd
Ouray County Coroner

421 6th Avenue - Ouray, Colorado 81427 - Phone: 970-318-9603

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: R. Glenn Boyd, Coroner
Email: gboyd@ourayco.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Ouray County Coroner's Office Identifies Victims from August 5, 2025, Red Mountain Pass Accident

Ouray County, Colo. – The Ouray County Coroner's Office has identified the two individuals who tragically lost their lives in a motor vehicle accident on Red Mountain Pass on August 5, 2025.

The decedents have been identified as Louis Michael, aged 42, of Farmington, New Mexico, and Leoba Valdez, aged 79, of Aztec, New Mexico. We extend our sincere condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of Mr. Michael and Ms. Valdez during this incredibly difficult time.

At this stage, the cause of death remains under investigation, pending the completion of autopsies and toxicology testing. These are standard procedures with all motor vehicle accidents resulting in fatality. Toxicology results typically require six to eight weeks for full analysis and reporting.

For further information regarding the accident investigation and crash circumstances, please refer to Colorado State Patrol, who are the lead agency in the crash investigation. The Ouray County Coroner's Office will provide updates as appropriate once additional information becomes available.

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