



## NEWS RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Portage Department  
of Public Safety  
Watch Command  
269-329-4567

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 12/22/2017

Case No. 17-35352

On December 22, 2017 at 11:02 a.m., Portage police and fire units were dispatched to U.S. 131 northbound near the 29 mile marker for a report of an injury accident. Once on scene, first responders located a 2011 Ford Focus that had apparently left the freeway and collided with a tree in the median. Fire personnel worked for approximately 40 minutes, extricating the driver, and determined him to be the lone occupant of the vehicle. The man was identified as a 38-year-old resident of Schoolcraft. He was transported to Bronson Hospital, where he was listed in serious condition. The Portage Police Accident Reconstruction Team was summoned to the scene to investigate the crash. The incident caused one lane of northbound U.S. 131 to be closed for approximately four hours.

The driver of the 2011 Ford Focus, Michael Joseph Wood, died later that evening. The accident remains under investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to call Portage Public Safety at 329-4567 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, [www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com](http://www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com).

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