



## **Perkins County Sheriff's Office**

*"Protecting & Serving Perkins County Since 1888"*

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**James D. Brueggeman**  
*Sheriff*

**Rick M. Dreiling**  
*Chief Deputy Sheriff*

**Karon R. Harris**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:  
September 19, 2005 8:00 a.m.**

**Perkins County Sheriff's Office Provides  
Transportation To Pedestrian Later Fatality  
In Keith County Automobile Accident**

On Sunday, September 18, 2005 at approximately 1:04 a.m. the Perkins County Sheriff's Office contacted 39-year-old Erik P Watkins of Aurora, Colorado after he was observed by law enforcement walking on the northbound shoulder of Highway 61 near Mile Marker 69 just north of Grant in Perkins County, Nebraska.

After contacting Watkins, law enforcement learned that Watkins was walking to his home in Aurora, Colorado from Grant, Nebraska.

Law enforcement conducted a routine background check on Watkins through the Perkins County Communications Center, which indicated Watkins had no outstanding arrest warrants. Following the routine background check and contact with Watkins law enforcement personnel determined there was no need to detain Watkins and Watkins was given transportation from Mile Marker 69 to the Perkins and Keith County lines located near Mile Marker 78 on Highway 61.

Perkins County law enforcement left Watkins at the Perkins and Keith County lines and Watkins was last seen by Perkins County law enforcement walking towards Ogallala on the northbound shoulder of Highway 61 at about 1:24 a.m.

Perkins County law enforcement notified the Keith County Communications Center at approximately 1:45 a.m. that Watkins was provided transportation to the Perkins and Keith County lines and that Watkins was last observed walking northbound towards Ogallala.

At about 5:00 a.m. Perkins County authorities received a telephone call from the Keith County Communications Center requesting a physical description of Watkins being advised that a pedestrian walking on Highway 61 had been struck and killed just south of Ogallala in Keith County, Nebraska.

The Perkins County Sheriff's Office later learned that Watkins was the pedestrian who was killed in the accident south of Ogallala. The Nebraska State Patrol investigated the vehicle accident that resulted in Watkins' death.

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