

OFFICE OF DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY  
**JAMES C. BACKSTROM**  
COUNTY ATTORNEY



Dakota County Judicial Center  
1560 Highway 55  
Hastings, Minnesota 55033-2392  
Phillip D. Prokopowicz, Chief Deputy  
Karen A. Schaffer, First Assistant  
Monica Jensen, Community Relations Director

Telephone  
(651) 438-4438  
FAX: (651) 438-4479 (Civil Division)  
FAX: (651) 438-4500 (Criminal Division)  
FAX: (651) 438-4499 (Juvenile/Admin Division)  
E-mail: attorney@co.dakota.mn.us

January 23, 2013

**NEWS RELEASE**

**MAN PLEADS GUILTY AND IS SENTENCED FOR KILLING TWO  
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ON 35W IN BURNSVILLE**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that Kirk Edward Deamos, age 23 of Raymore, Missouri, pled guilty late today to one count of Careless Driving (a misdemeanor), in connection with crash that occurred on October 13, 2011 on 35W in Burnsville that killed 47-year-old Craig Carlson of Ramsey and 44-year-old Ronald Rajkowski of St. Joseph, who were working as electricians at the construction site along this roadway. Deamos was sentenced by Judge Arlene Perkkio to 30 days in jail, 200 hours of community work service and a fine of \$100.

Backstrom indicated that under current Minnesota law felony charges were not possible in this case because no alcohol or drugs were involved, gross negligence could not be proved and Deamos did not flee the scene of the crash.

Backstrom noted that he has been attempting to increase the penalty for careless (negligent) driving resulting in death to a gross misdemeanor since 2007. "This is another tragic example of the need to have a law in place that deals with taking negligent risks while driving that reflect it is more serious to hit and kill a human being than it is to damage a mailbox," Backstrom commented. Backstrom said he is pursuing adoption of such a law once again this year at the Minnesota Legislature.

For a copy of the criminal complaint, go to <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/ComplaintSearch>.

Backstrom extended his deepest sympathy to the families of Craig Carlson and Ronald Rajkowski for their great loss.

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.