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DAVID L. WAGNER II
UNDERSHERIFF

IMMEDIATE USE

PRESS RELEASE

TYPE: Fatal Snowmobile Crash

DATE OF RELEASE: January 19, 2019

DATE AND TIME REPORTED: January 18, 2019 @ 7:47 pm

LOCATION: Snowmobile Trail 76 / Devil Creek Rd (a seasonal road) South of Military Rd

VICTIM: Timothy Edward Vertrees II,
45 yro male from Charlotte, MI

INFORMATION: Timothy Vertrees was traveling southbound on Kalkaska Snowmobile Trail 76 along Devil Creek Road approximately 1 mile south of Military Rd with a group of friends. Vertrees was ahead of the group when the right ski of his 1996 Polaris Indy 500 snowmobile struck the hard icy ridge along the edge of the trail while navigating a curve in the roadway. Vertrees was ejected from the snowmobile and his head and body struck two separate trees. Vertrees was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash but the helmet was dislodge as he struck the trees. His snowmobile continued for some distance before leaving the roadway and also striking several trees.

Vertrees's friends came upon him a short time after the crash and called 911. CPR was initiated a short time after the 911 call. EMS continued lifesaving efforts, however Vertrees was pronounced deceased on scene. Speed was a factor in the crash, however alcohol is not believed to be a factor.

RESPONDING AGENCIES: Kalkaska Sheriff's Office, Garfield Township Fire Department and Kalkaska EMS.

STATUS: OPEN PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION