

TUPELO, Okla. — State Trooper Mark Benedict, 56, of Coalgate, Okla. was conducting a routine traffic stop Thursday on State Highway 3, seven miles east of Tupelo in Coal County, when Michael Allen Penny, 42, of Marlow, Okla. fled the scene at a high rate of speed eastbound, according to the trooper's report.

The report states Penny's vehicle, a 1991 Ford SUV, then intentionally traveled left of center and struck a westbound 2009 Peterbilt semi tractor and trailer driven by Joseph Leonard Reyor, 60, of Anadarko, Okla. Reyor attempted to evade collision by pulling onto the shoulder, but the vehicles struck head on. The trooper's report said Penny's vehicle then traveled across both lanes and struck Benedict's 2005 Ford 4D, which was on the eastbound shoulder.

Penny was pronounced dead at the scene. Reyor and Benedict were treated for injuries at Mary Hurly Hospital in Coalgate, Okla. and released.