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# Tragic Start to 2024: First Traffic Fatality of the Year in El Paso

**Vehicle 1:** 2016 Toyota RAV 4

**Driver 1:** 31-year-old Hispanic Female (**TENTATIVE ID DECEASED**)

**Vehicle 2:** 1998 GMC Box Truck, TX AJ9-3517

**Driver 2:** 61-year-old Carlos Arellanes, El Paso Resident

**El Paso, Texas**—Special Traffic Investigators with the El Paso Police Department are investigating a fatal collision at 8600 Gateway East. The incident, which took place on January 1st, marks the first traffic fatality of 2024 in the city.

According to preliminary investigations, the collision involved a U-Haul-type truck and another vehicle. The U-Haul truck was traveling slower in the center lane of Gateway East, having just entered from Pendale. The other vehicle, believed to be traveling at a high rate of speed, was behind the truck in the same lane. The second vehicle's driver attempted to change lanes into the right-hand lane but collided with the rear of the U-Haul truck.

The impact caused the second vehicle to lose control and rest in the left lane. The roof of the vehicle was torn open upon impact with the U-Haul truck, resulting in severe injuries to the driver. Tragically, the driver of the second vehicle was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the U-Haul truck was taken to Del Sol for minor injuries.

This collision is the first traffic fatality of the year in El Paso, compared to zero at this time last year.

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