

# Iowa Troopers Aid Kidney Delivery in Snow Storm

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A day of responding to accidents on icy roads turned into an organ-saving odyssey for two Iowa State Patrol troopers.

With the clock ticking and driving conditions treacherous, the troopers helped get two donor kidneys to waiting transplant recipients after the nurse who was delivering them was in a car accident .

The odyssey began Wednesday morning on Interstate 80 at the U.S. Highway 63 interchange southeast of Grinnell, Iowa.

Trooper Chad Hollingsworth had pulled over to aid a motorist whose car hit a bridge railing. While he was there, another car hit the same railing.

Inside that [vehicle](#) was Mike Kaiser, a nurse with the Iowa Donor Network, who was en route from Des Moines to Iowa City.

Kaiser told Hollingsworth that he was rushing to deliver two kidneys for transplants. The two loaded up the coolers and began driving toward Iowa City.

The pavement was glazed and snow was blowing across it. Hollingsworth could drive only about 45 mph. After about 10 miles, the two came across another accident and had to stop.

Another trooper, Jon Degen, drove west to meet them.

Hollingsworth stayed with the new accident, while Kaiser and the kidneys moved on to Iowa City with Degen.

Doctors were waiting.

"We lost very little time getting the kidneys to the recipients," said Paul Soddors of the Iowa Donor Network.

"Troopers Hollingsworth and Degen are to be commended for not only rescuing one of our own employees, but also saving the lives of two people who desperately needed kidney transplants to stay alive."

Soddors said kidneys can stay out of the body for up to 48 hours, but the quicker they can be transplanted, the better.

"Time is always of the essence for us," he said.

Kaiser received treatment for crash injuries after arriving at Iowa City. His injuries were not considered life-threatening.

"We often hear about things being a matter of life and death," said Iowa Department of Public Safety Commissioner Eugene T. Meyer. "But these troopers' actions made the difference between life and death. They rescued a nurse and saved the lives of two organ transplant recipients."

Degen, who has been with the Iowa State Patrol for 19

years, said any trooper would have done the same thing. The trip was unusual, though.

"This was a first for me."