



# Fatality #: 5

**Name (if publicly available):**

*Arthur "Naomi" Ornelas*

**Date of Incident:**

*7/12/2015*

**Time of Day:**

*9:10:00 PM*

**Location on North Nevada Avenue:**

*Jackson & Nevada (northbound)*

**Age & Gender:**

*66-year old male*

**Type of Road User:**

- Driver

**Brief Summary (2–3 sentences):**

On a summer evening at the intersection of North Nevada Avenue and Jackson Street, one reckless decision turned deadly. A northbound driver, heavily impaired—testing at more than twice the legal alcohol limit—ignored a red light and tore through the intersection at a horrifying speed estimated between 80 and 100 miles per hour.

In that moment, he slammed into a southbound car making a lawful left turn.

The collision was so violent, the sedan he struck was ripped into two pieces. The driver's own vehicle caught fire just seconds later.

Inside the wreckage were four people—two critically injured and one whose fate was sealed in the chaos. The impaired driver had sent his own partner to the hospital in critical condition. The driver of the struck vehicle, Naomi, was rushed to the hospital with catastrophic injuries. Despite the efforts of doctors and nurses, Naomi died on August 2.

A life full of hopes, dreams, and meaning—gone. Stolen in seconds by speed and selfishness.

The driver was later sentenced to 10 years in prison for vehicular homicide and vehicular assault, both felonies. But no prison sentence can return Naomi to his loved ones, or undo the pain inflicted on two families.

### Who They Were (Optional, 1–2 sentences):

In this tragic accident, the driver killed his partner of nearly 40 years. Naomi was known as loving, kind, open, and sharing.

### Preventable? (Optional thoughts or comments):

This wasn't just a tragic car crash—it was a moment of preventable violence that left a permanent scar on a family, a neighborhood, and an entire community. "accident."

### Why This Story Matters:

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On North Nevada Avenue, one driver's reckless decision to drink, speed, and ignore a red light cost Naomi his life and nearly claimed two more: a father and his young son.

The father, critically injured, spent over three weeks in the hospital—much of it in a coma. When he finally woke up, he couldn't even remember the names or faces of his own family. His son, though physically less harmed, had to watch helplessly as his father clung to life.

These are not just statistics or news stories. These are real people—parents, partners, children—whose lives were destroyed in an instant.

Naomi died. A son nearly lost his father. All because one person chose to drive impaired, chose to ignore the law, chose speed over safety.

This story matters because it's a warning—and a call to action.

It shows how a single act of selfishness behind the wheel can ripple outward, devastating everyone in its path. It reminds us that traffic safety isn't just about rules—it's about responsibility. About valuing human life more than a moment of convenience, thrill, or intoxication.

North Nevada Avenue has seen too many close calls, too many tragedies. And unless things change—unless we slow down, drive sober, and demand safer streets—it will happen again.

Naomi's death, the father's coma, the child's trauma—these should not be in vain. Let this story matter by letting it change behavior. Let it save the next life.



### **Notes or Sources (Optional):**

[Colorado Springs Gazette Feb 5, 2016](#)

[Fox21 News Jul 17, 2015](#)