

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
**JOYCE E. DUDLEY**  
District Attorney



DA 02-290

RELEASE NUMBER

February 18, 2015

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY: *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

February 18, 2015

**Re: *People v. Daniel Garcia Castillo*; Case No. 1448623**

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today the guilty verdicts in the Vehicular Manslaughter jury trial in Santa Barbara County. In Santa Maria, a jury found Daniel Garcia Castillo guilty, as charged, of two counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated with methamphetamine in violation of Penal Code section 191.5(a), as well as the special allegation of causing injury to more than one person. Defendant Castillo was also found guilty of driving under the influence of methamphetamine causing injury and the special allegation of inflicting great bodily injury. Finally, the jury found defendant Castillo guilty of reckless driving causing serious bodily injury.

The convictions arose out of a major collision occurring on August 29, 2013. On that date, Defendant Castillo drove a 12,000 pound forklift backwards at its top speed along Philbric Road in Santa Maria. Prior to driving the forklift that day, the Defendant had consumed methamphetamine. While driving the forklift backwards, Defendant crossed the double yellow line and struck a Honda Civic. The defendant killed the 16-year old driver of the Honda Civic, Adolfo Pozos, and his 49-year old aunt, Casilda Pozos. Adolfo's mother, Mahayte Pozos, and sister, Celizeth Pozos, survived, but suffered major injuries.

After the verdicts, Defendant was remanded to the County Jail without bail. His sentencing is set for March 19, 2015, in the Santa Maria Superior Court before the Honorable Judge McGregor.

According to District Attorney Dudley, "Today's successful jury verdict was a direct result of the perseverance, diligence, and hard work by the officers of the California Highway Patrol and the staff at the District Attorney's Office, led by Stephen Foley. This is another heart-breaking instance that proves driving under the influence of 'meth' or any intoxicating substance – kills."

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