

Fog pileup death suit settled

► Lawyer says family of teacher Bebe Kobos, who died in Bayway crash, ready to get on with their lives

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Staff Reporter

A lawsuit over Frances "Bebe" Kobos' death in the March 20 Bayway pileup has been settled out of court for an undisclosed amount.

Mrs. Kobos, a teacher from Bay Minette,

died when her 1988 Honda Accord caught fire after it was hit by two 18-wheel trucks in the 193-vehicle pileup on the fogbound Interstate 10 Bayway.

Joseph M. "Buddy" Brown, attorney for Mrs. Kobos' husband, Robert, said he cannot reveal the settlement amount under a confidentiality agreement among the parties.

The lesson from the case, Brown said, is that irresponsible driving was as much to blame for the tragedy as was the fog. Professional truck drivers had learned from citizens' band radio that the Bayway was fogged in and that there were wrecks, he said.

"The ordinary motorist, who is not in pos-

session of professional equipment and knowledge, went across the Bay with no concept that the fog could be so bad," Brown said. "But the drivers of 50,000-pound trucks were aware of it."

Mrs. Kobos, 50, was the only fatality in the massive wreck — the largest multi-vehicle wreck in U.S. history; 91 other motorists were injured.

Brown confirmed last week that Barber's Dairy, owner of one of the trucks that struck Mrs. Kobos' car, and Gerald W. Burroughs, the truck's driver, had agreed to settle in the

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wrongful-death lawsuit.

Sydney R. Prince, attorney for Barber's Dairy, said he has no comment.

Brown said the Kobos family is satisfied with the settlement.

"Mr. Kobos and their three daughters are pleased that this chapter in their lives has ended and that they can, hopefully, put this matter behind them," the attorney said. "It's been a long 10 months since Bebe died, and the family was ready for a resolution."