

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Man Dies After Falling Ill At Tide Pools While Fishing Whelks

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ST. CROIX -- A man who was fishing for whelks at the Tide Pool on Thursday died after suffering a severe illness, Liz Goggins of St. Croix Rescue confirmed to The Consortium this morning.

According to Ms. Goggins, the victim was accompanied by another male who, because cellphones don't catch signal at the tide pools, attempted to leave the area to get help, but was spotted by a Tan Tan Tours employee, who then went down to the pool, saw the victim and relayed the news to the owner of the tours company, Wave Phillips.

Mr. Phillips called 911 at about 4:00 p.m., and 911 notified St. Croix Rescue and the Fire Service to aid with extraction. Fire Service came as far as they could with their vehicle, and was taken through the worst part of the road by Tan Tan Tours. "It was Fire Service, Tan Tan Tours and St. Croix Rescue who carried the body about half a mile on a backboard over the rocks," Ms. Goggins said.

The Firemen and St. Croix Rescue volunteers then boarded a Tan Tan Tours vehicle and made their way to the top of the road, where they met with emergency medical technicians who examined the body and declared the victim dead on arrival. The victim was then taken to the morgue, according to Ms. Goggins. She said the entire process -- from initial 911 call to confirmation of death by EMTs -- took about 3 hours.

Feature Image: St. Croix Rescue, VI Fire Service and Tan Tan Tours men carry the victim's body on a backboard away from the Tide Pools.

Image Credit: St. Croix Rescue.