

The Virgin Islands Consortium

18-Year-Old Man From St. Croix Dies In California Car Accident

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ST. CROIX -- A young man from St. Croix lost his life in a car accident that occurred in Cloverdale, California, on Tuesday night, according to media reports from Cloverdale. The tragic incident quickly spread through the local web, with Virgin Islanders expressing sorrow on social media.

According to a report from [Press Democrat](#), a newspaper in Santa Rosa since 1857, which cited CHP, California's [traffic incident website](#), the accident, a rollover crash, occurred on Highway 101 north of Cloverdale. The publication said three other individuals suffered minor injuries, including two women from Ukiah, California ages 24 and 18, along with another man from the territory. It was not clear whether the other

Virgin Islander was from the St. Croix or St. Thomas-St. John district.

The deceased has been identified as Zion James, a nephew of Senator Positive Nelson.

The crash, which occurred at about 6:00 p.m. according to Press Democrat, involved a 2001 Mitsubishi Montero traveling north, just beyond Geysers Road.

It was not known as of Tuesday night why the 24-year-old Ukiah woman lost control of the vehicle, according to CHP. However, the two men, who officers believe were not wearing seat belts according to Press Democrat, were thrown out of the vehicle. The Press Democrat report added that the female passenger from Ukiah managed to get out the vehicle on her own, but firefighters had to help the driver.

Mr. James died on the scene, but the three survivors were taken to the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital.

Press Democrat said the crash response and investigation caused traffic problems as officers temporarily funneled drivers in both directions down to one lane.