

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Vehicular Accidents Leave Two Dead In Days; V.I.P.D. Commissioner Urging Motorists To Exercise Caution

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ST. THOMAS -- During Governor Kenneth Mapp's Monday press briefing, V.I.P.D. Commissioner Delroy Richards urged motorists to use caution when driving, as most of the territory's intersections are without traffic lights, and at nights most of the thoroughfares are dark. He said there's been an increase in accidents and injuries as a result of motorists driving recklessly at a time when heightened carefulness and vigilance should be employed.

Two individuals have died as a result of vehicular accidents in two days, Mr. Richards made known. The first incident occurred after the 2:00 a.m. hour on Sunday in St. Thomas on the Weymoth Rhymer Highway. According to police, the vehicle was headed

eastward when it went off of the road and into the area of New Hernhut, colliding with a tree.

The victim, who expired on the scene, was identified by police as Ralph Jones Castillo. There was a female victim in the vehicle as well but she survived the crash, police said.

The other incident occurred on Monday on the St. Thomas waterfront (Veterans Drive), and included a vehicle that veered off the road and into the ocean. The individual driving the vehicle died, according to Mr. Richards.

Mr. Richards said his officers would continue monitoring traffic, but stressed that people's safety, without traffic lights, are in their own hands. Mr. Mapp also chimed in, stating that he witnessed motorists driving at intersections with no regard to oncoming traffic. He too urged caution.