

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Five Are Dead In Plane Crash At St. Croix Airport

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Ernice Gilbert **December 08, 2017**



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ST. CROIX -- A plane crash near the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport on Thursday night left all five occupants of the aircraft dead, The Consortium can confirm.

Police Commissioner Delroy Richards told The Consortium that the aircraft, a private chartered plane, took off from the St. Croix airport and soon after started experiencing engine problems, with flames coming from one of its two engines. The pilot circled back and attempted to land at the airport, but the plane crashed in a field area near the runway, leaving all occupants, including the pilot, dead, Mr. Richards said.

The FAA on Friday revealed the aircraft to be of [Beech-branded](#) plane.

David Goodrich, commander of St. Croix Rescue's extrication team, who was on the scene of the incident, told The Consortium that by the time they arrived on the scene, there was nothing they could do. The Virgin Islands Port Authority said in a [statement issued on Facebook](#) that the crash occurred at 8:54 p.m.

The plane included one member of the Stylee Band, however The Consortium will withhold the member's name because next of kin notification had not yet occurred at time of writing.

The V.I.P.D. cordoned off the east and west entrances of the airport, only allowing in first responders. A medical examiner vehicle was spotted making its way to the scene, and a first responder at the crash site told this publication that emergency personnel were still investigating the incident at about 11:06 p.m. on Thursday.

The tragedy has cast a cloud of sadness over the territory, as the Stylee Band, currently one of the territory's premier groups, is known to help carry the festival season, especially their performances during the Festival Village, j'ouvert morning and the parades.

And the news of the crash and the plane's high-profile occupant sent a shock through social media, with thousands already mourning the unfortunate occurrence.

Feature Image: Police blocked the east entrance of the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport road on Thursday night, allowing first responders and investigators to respond to the site of a plane crash. The incident left all five occupants of the aircraft dead.