

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Christmas Day Accident On Melvin Evans Highway Leaves Man Dead

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ST. CROIX -- A man died early Monday morning during an accident that occurred on the Melvin Evans Highway a half mile away from the Sunny Isle stoplights, according to St. Croix Rescue's David Goodrich, who along with other St. Croix Rescue members, V.I.P.D. and emergency medical technicians were on the scene following the fatal accident.

The 911 emergency call center received notification of the accident at about 6:58 a.m., according to V.I.P.D. Public Information Officer Glen Dratte.

The deceased, a corrections officer, was on the highway heading east when he struck a pole that caused his vehicle to overturn and land on its roof, according to a first responder on the scene whose identity is being withheld because this person was not authorized to speak to the media. The victim did not appear to suffer outward injury, but was hurt internally, with the same first responder telling The Consortium that the victim could have suffered fatal neck injury.

Mr. Dratte said the victim's identity was being withheld because he wasn't certain that next of kin had been notified. The accident follows another that occurred last week on the highway, where two vehicles slammed directly into each other, causing injury but not fatalities.

The first responder who spoke to The Consortium urged motorists to use caution when driving, pointing to the poorly lit roads and potholes that can lead to deadly accidents.