

NEWS

3 dead, 2 injured in DPW car accident

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THREE people died and two sustained critical injuries when a Department of Public Works car rolled down an embankment in Taylor's Halt in the early hours of Saturday morning.

ER24 spokesperson Andrew Rogers said the SUV rolled down an embankment in the Kuqani area in Taylor's Halt at around 4 am.

Rogers said ER24 paramedics found the car lying at the bottom of the embankment with five bodies scattered around the vehicle.

"Paramedics assessed the patients and found that a woman and two men showed no signs of life. All three of them were pronounced dead on the scene," Rogers said.

The two remaining patients had sustained moderate injuries and were treated on the scene before being taken to Edendale and Mediclinic hospitals for further treatment.

Rogers said the details surrounding the accident are not yet known, however, local authorities were on the scene and will conduct investigations to determine the cause of the accident.

Department of Public Works spokesperson Mbulelo Baloyi confirmed that the vehicle belonged to the department. He said the car was in the possession of an employee who used it to attend a departmental sports day that was held in Richards Bay last Friday.

Baloyi also told *The Witness* that the three people who died were not employees of the department.

"The employee who was in possession of the car sustained injuries and was taken to hospital," he said.

Baloyi said he could not give a full comment on the accident because investigations to determine the circumstances were still under way.

"The department would like to pass our sincerest condolences to the families of the people who lost their lives," he added.