

High-speed crash in Bellevue leaves one dead, drivers arrested Video

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KING5.com and KING Staff

BELLEVUE, Wash. - A high-speed crash in the downtown area of this Seattle suburb has left one young man dead, five people injured and both drivers under arrest for investigation of vehicular assault. Video

[Roberta Romero's Sunday morning report](#)

A BMW carrying five friends in their early 20s and a Jeep Cherokee containing six people of high school age slammed into each other about 11:30 p.m. Saturday at a downtown intersection, police and firefighters said. [More ... Custom Video ...](#)

Robert Vasen, 20, a former Bellevue High School student who was riding in the back seat of the BMW, died the next night at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, officials said.

Another passenger from the BMW was treated at Harborview for spleen and shoulder injuries and three others from the BMW were treated for lesser injuries at Overlake Medical Center, as was the driver of the Jeep.

Police were trying to determine who was at fault in the wreck.

"We suspect alcohol was involved with both drivers," Officer Greg Grannis said.



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Robert Vasen was a student at the University of Washington.

It was a chaotic scene when Bellevue fire and police departments arrived at the accident. The impact of the crash was so significant extra emergency crews were called in.

“In one car, the BMW, the whole driver’s side was crushed in,” said Lt. Bruce Kroon of the Bellevue Fire Dept. “The driver of the Jeep actually bent the steering wheel over, from the impact of the collision.”

Bellevue Police say the BMW going north on 108th Ave. NE was broadsided by the Jeep going east on NE 2nd Street.

"The passengers in the Jeep actually took off, but to their credit they did come back later on," said Kroon.

Six people were taken to the hospital with various injuries. Vasen was taken to Harborview Medical Center in critical condition and died later.

Vasen was well-known in the Bellevue area, having already survived a life-threatening staph infection in his leg when he was a freshman at Bellevue High School. He was a junior at the University of Washington.

Bellevue police are still investigating the cause of the crash. Both drivers were arrested for investigation of vehicular assault, and alcohol involvement is suspected.

Online at:

http://www.king5.com/localnews/stories/NW_032706WABbellevue_crashSW.630cba21.html