

Creek crash driver dies, passenger remains critical

■ Atchison County investigators at Independence Creek examine the car that landed in the creek/Credit:MSC News/Brian Hagen

(KAIR)--The teenage driver of a car, submerged in Atchison's Independence Creek following a wreck, has died.

Atchison County Undersheriff Toby Smith, in a release, said 16-year-old Zachary Armontrout, of Rushville, Missouri, died Monday morning while hospitalized at the University of Kansas Hospital, in Kansas City, Kansas.

A second teen who was trapped inside the car, 16-year-year-old Regan Moger, of Houston, Texas, remains in critical condition at the hospital.

Smith, on the scene of the Sunday afternoon wreck, told MSC News three other teens traveling in the vehicle were able to avoid being trapped inside after the vehicle landed upside down in the water. "We responded to the report of an injury accident involving a vehicle submerged in Independence Creek. This vehicle was turned upside down when we got on scene. We learned that five people were involved in this accident, who were in the vehicle, three of which who were able escape from the vehicle once it was in the water. Two other occupants remained in the vehicle for a period of time but were later recovered from the submerged vehicle."

All five teenagers are identified as students at Atchison's [Maur Hill-Mount Academy](#) Catholic High School.

The three who escaped the wreckage are identified by the Kansas Highway Patrol as 14-year-old Hamilton Snyder, of Capitola, California, 16-year-old Phillip Saragusa, of Atchison, and 14-year-old Aurora Dericotte, of Stillwell, Kansas.

All three were transported to the Atchison Hospital for treatment, with Snyder and Saragusa incurring only possible injuries in the wreck.

Smith told MSC News the vehicle was westbound on Atchison's River Road at the Independence Bridge when it crashed through the guardrail to the right, and landed upside down in the water below.

The crash was reported around 2:30 Sunday afternoon.

Assisting at the scene were the Atchison County Rescue Unit, the Atchison Fire Department, and Atchison County EMS.

Many Signals Communications