

## Four injured in Sunday evening crash

Contributed by Elizabeth Larson  
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HIGH VALLEY &ndash; Mechanical problems led to a single-vehicle accident Sunday evening that injured several people.

Officer Adam Garcia of the California Highway Patrol reported that the accident occurred at 6:40 p.m. on Sunday along High Valley Road, 1.4 miles past the end of the pavement in the area north of Clearlake Oaks.

Justin Watkins, 23, of Clearlake was at the wheel when he began having problems with his vehicle's transmission, Garcia reported.

The vehicle's engine was shut off as Watkins drove downhill, said Garcia. Watkins went around a corner too fast, and experienced trouble with the steering and breaks.

As a result the vehicle went off the road's south edge and rolled over a few times before coming to rest about 130 feet down the hill, said Garcia.

Watkins was uninjured, said Garcia. However, one of Watkins' passengers, 30-year-old Anthony Thomas of Clearlake, was taken to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital via REACH air ambulance with moderate to major injuries, according to Garcia.

The other passengers included 22-year-old Cheryl Harmen and 21-year-old Jessica Bal, both of Clearlake, who were both transported by Clearlake Oaks Fire Department ambulance to Redbud Community Hospital, each with minor to moderate injuries, Garcia reported.

Garcia said a third passenger, Keoni Barry, 30, of Clearlake sustained minor injuries but was not transported.

CHP Officer Mark Barnes is investigating the incident, Garcia said.

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