

PRESS RELEASE

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Boating Accident Near Clark Rock, Virgin Gorda Under Investigation

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The Marine Safety Investigation and Reporting Authority (MSIRA) is investigating a boating accident that took place in the North Sound area of Virgin Gorda, near Gun Creek, at approximately 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, 18 October 2025. The Authority is again emphasising the importance of safe navigation, especially at night.

The accident involved a 15-foot Boston Whaler, which reportedly collided with Clark Rock near North Sound, while heading to Gun Creek

Both people on board sustained injuries, with one individual suffering serious injuries after being impaled by an anchor during the impact. Swift response efforts from the Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (VISAR) resulted in the prompt recovery and medical evacuation of the occupants.

Clark Rock is a partially submerged rock formation that presents a navigational hazard due to its shallow depth and limited visibility, especially at high tide. Although charted, it remains dangerous for small vessels and those unfamiliar with the area.

Chief Marine Safety Investigator, Mr. Jerome Padmore, emphasised, "It's important to acknowledge the significance of safe navigation and the need for increased caution when operating vessels at night, particularly in areas with hazards or limited visibility. Mariners are advised to navigate cautiously, keep a proper lookout, and use updated navigational charts."

According to Mr. Padmore, this investigation aims to identify safety lessons rather than assign blame or liability. He said the Authority will continue to provide updates and reminders to mariners that marine accidents must be reported to MSIRA as required by law.

A shortened report on this recent boating accident will be published.

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About:

The Marine Safety Investigation and Reporting Authority (MSIRA) operates under the Premier's Office and is the official body responsible for the independent investigation of marine accidents and incidents within the territorial waters of The

Virgin Islands. Guided by the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations, 2020 and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Casualty Investigation Code, MSIRA's primary objective is to enhance maritime safety through fact-based investigations, the identification of safety issues, and the issuance of recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. MSIRA investigations do not seek to apportion blame or establish liability.

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