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An Elderly Stevedore is Killed in Traffic Mishap Near Port



Road traffic accidents are a major cause of deaths on the roads and highways across the country so much so that the Police Department is now enforcing a number of initiatives to reduce the dreadful statistics. In tonight's newscast, we report on two deadly accidents. In Belize City, a waterfront worker perished in a horrible traffic accident this afternoon. He was riding his bicycle at the corner of Ceasar Ridge Road when he was hit by a tanker. Russell Arnold died instantly on the street when he was crushed by the vehicle. His bicycle was left mangled at the busy scene of the accident. Here is News Five's Isani Cayetano with a report.

Isani Cayetano, Reporting

An elderly waterfront worker perished this afternoon when he was ran over by a fuel tanker on Central American Boulevard, at its intersection with Caesar Ridge Road. Seventy-one-year-old Russell Arnold was riding his bicycle in that vicinity and upon turning left, was knocked down and crushed beneath the wheels of the truck. A friend of his, who asked not to appear on camera, laments the tragic loss of life.

Voice of: Friend of Russell Arnold



“Ih hurt me when I heard about this. I tell dehn when dehn tell me truck just run over him, I tell dehn dehn liad because he just passed me. Ih just passed me. Ih just passed me.”

Isani Cayetano

“How close are you to him, as someone you worked with?”

Voice of: Friend of Russell Arnold

“Well, we da good friends. We noh heng out and soh together. Most people heng out da work spot together and that’s it. But he’s a nice fella. He’s a nice fella. You ask him to do anything for you and ih wahn do it. He da di run man.”

The location where the incident occurred is a busy junction where lines of container and flatbed trucks often traffic in and out of the Port of Belize.



Isani Cayetano

“Now it seems as if though this intersection here between Caesar Ridge and Central American Boulevard is a very busy and trafficable one because of the port. Have you seen any other instance where this kind of threat or traffic incidents happened?”

Voice of: Friend of Russell Arnold

“Da di first one I seh ya at this spot, but I know dehn truck man dehn drive round dis lane without think, without think because many a times me haffi turn long wid dehn fi mek dehn noh knock me down. Many a times, cause dehn noh slow down, dehn just turn di curve.”

In remembering Arnold, his colleague describes him as someone who was always willing to be sent on short errands for other stevedores at the port.



Voice of: Friend of Russell Arnold

“Russell Arnold is a good person. He is friendly and I worked with him over thirty years so ih hurt me when I heard about this. Only thing I could seh, Mr. Arnold is a very good guy. Neva refuse fi do nothing fi nobody. Anybody hail ahn could send him out, anybody. That’s why ih rough and this hurt.”

The identity of the driver and whether he has been served with a notice of intended prosecution has not been shared with the media. It is expected, nonetheless, that the motorist will face charges stemming from the unfortunate incident.