

The body of a man was found early Saturday morning near the scene of a wreck from Friday night—and one man was said to be missing from the crash scene. The matter remains under investigation of the NC State Patrol, Sgt. Henley saying Saturday that a GMC Sierra SUV crashed traveling US 19E, running off of the road to the left as the vehicle traveled in the direction of the Mitchell County line. The SUV ran off of the road at about 8:45 PM and overturned, with only minor injuries reported for the four occupants found at the scene—one said to be suffering a broken collar bone another more minor injuries. But a fifth person, said to have been in the vehicle, was not found as dusk turned to darkness, and was not found in spite of an extensive rescue squad search of the area around the crash scene. Family members of the man were first back out to search early Saturday morning, and just after 7am, there was a report that a body was found in the Toe River, near where Winters Lane crosses over the river. Avery deputies converged on the scene and turned the matter back over to the State Patrol, with the body sent for an autopsy to determine the identity of the man and the cause of death. Sgt. Henley said it may be Monday before the investigation reaches that point.