

Eight injured in compact-car rollover

Teenager faces impaired driving charge

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A compact car that was carrying nine people — including two in the trunk — was involved in a rollover that sent all but the driver to hospital with serious injuries.

The 19-year-old driver has been charged with impaired driving.

The collision happened at John Laurie Blvd. and 19th St. N.W. around 11 p.m. on Friday when the driver lost control of the eastbound car and it rolled. As it flipped, police say it left a large field of debris on the road.

"Occupants were ejected from the vehicle so they're very fortunate to have survived," said duty inspector Keith Cain.

The occupants were teenagers and young adults and given the amount of people in the car, some were not wearing seatbelts.

"There's a reason wearing

seatbelts is the law. If a vehicle has five seatbelts, that's all (the passengers) you should have in the vehicle.

"To have people inside the passenger compartment of the car without seatbelts on is certainly an unnecessary risk. The biggest risk here is that the driver had apparently consumed alcohol and drove and he's putting everybody, including himself, at risk," said Cain.

"And then to put two people in the trunk is extremely careless. Those people have no way of preparing themselves for an accident like this."

As it happens, the crash occurred in front of a police unit that witnessed the incident.

EMS spokesman Adam Loria said six ambulances were necessary and the car's occupants were taken to three hospitals.

"All nine patients were transported in serious, but stable, non-life threatening condition," said Loria.

Police have charged Nicholas Briere, 19, with impaired driving with a blood-alcohol level over .08.

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