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Mount Signal, on the border between the U.S and Mexico

PICKUP PACKED WITH ALLEGED SMUGGLED IMMIGRANTS CRASHES, KILLING THREE

Near Mount Signal, Imperial Valley, California

CNN
March 19, 2000

MOUNT SIGNAL, California (AP) -- A stolen pickup truck carrying 22 allegedly smuggled immigrants crashed on Highway 98 near the Mexican border, killing three and injuring 18, authorities said Saturday.

One woman was not injured.

The pickup was eastbound on Highway 98 approaching Mount Signal shortly before 8 a.m. Friday when the driver lost control and it overturned, according to a California Highway Patrol report.

The names of the three men who were killed in the crash were not released.

The driver sustained a cut wrist and was arrested.

The driver and passengers were believed to be illegal immigrants, said Henry Rolon, a Border Patrol spokesman in El Centro. He didn't release other details.

Mount Signal is a tiny hamlet in Imperial County, about 114 miles southeast of San Diego and a few miles north of the Mexico border.