



4 Dead in Tragic Butte County Vehicle Collision

by [Injury Attorneys Sacramento](#) on 11/01/10

Four people died in a [Butte County car accident](#) on Sunday when a Dodge pickup traveling south bound on 99 west of Oroville crossed into opposing traffic and collided with a north bound Ford Explorer with 6 occupants. The Explorer was then struck from behind by a Ford pickup that had been behind it. Unfortunately, the Explorer, driven by 41-year-old Rodrigo Ramirez and occupied by five passengers, came to rest next to the Dodge pickup, which was on fire and leaking gas. Two bystanders, William Hague III and Thomas Crossin, were able to pull the driver of the Dodge pickup, 21 year old Ryan Finnerty, to safety. Hague and the driver of the Ford pickup were then able to pull an 11 year old boy and 35 year old man out of the Explorer to safety. However, they were forced to retreat when the Dodge's gas tank ruptured, spilling burning gas under the Explorer. A CHP officer tried unsuccessfully to push the Explorer away from the burning pickup with the bumper of his vehicle, but the flames eventually completely engulfed the SUV with 4 people left inside.

The two people pulled from the Explorer were hospitalized with major personal injuries. Unfortunately 4 occupants of the Explorer, Rodrigo Ramirez, Gustavo Martinez, Rigoberto Martinez, and Gabriella Rosas were declared dead at the scene. Mr. Finnerty was also hospitalized with unspecified injuries.

Nothing is more devastating than losing a loved one, especially if it is unexpected and as the result of someone's negligence. The law provides that certain family members, usually a spouse, child or parent, have the right to recover compensation for certain losses if someone is liable for causing another person's death. These losses include both economic and non-economic damages. The most significant economic loss recoverable in a [wrongful death](#)

[claim](#) is typically the loss of financial support and other benefits that the deceased would have provided in his or her lifetime to the person making the claim. Other damages include the loss of love, support and companionship of the deceased person.

Based on the available information, the driver of the Dodge is more than likely responsible from a legal standpoint to compensate the victims of this [California injury accident](#). In most cases, the driver's insurance would pay for these losses. If he had no insurance, the victims may be able to recover under the uninsured motorist provision of an auto insurance policy covering their vehicle. Anyone who has lost a loved one as the result of another's negligence or carelessness is advised to contact an experienced [California Personal Injury Attorney](#) who will hire investigators and accident reconstruction experts to conduct a thorough investigation of the incident, advise the victim of all legal rights, and file a lawsuit if necessary to obtain fair compensation.

Contact a California Personal Injury Lawyer

*The [Demas & Rosenthal](#) personal injury law firm is not currently representing anyone mentioned in this article at the time it was posted. If you were involved in this incident or a similar incident and have questions as to your legal rights and options, call us or another well recognized and respected personal injury law firm. Please do not rely or act solely upon the information provided in this article. Please consider getting a consultation immediately. The [best personal injury law firms](#) will provide a free consultation. **Demas & Rosenthal** will provide a free, confidential consultation to the persons who were not at fault named in this article. The free consultation offer extends to family members as well.*