

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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CAPSIZE AND SINKING OF STRETCH DUCK 7 *

ON TABLE ROCK LAKE, BRANSON, MISSOURI, * Accident No.: DCA18MM028

JULY 19, 2018 *

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Interview of: BRANDON BUSCH

Taney County Ambulance District HQ
Hollister, Missouri

Tuesday,
July 24, 2018

APPEARANCES:

MARCEL MUISE, Marine Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

 
U.S. Coast Guard

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I N T E R V I E W

(4:14 p.m.)

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2
3 MR. MUISE: This is Marcel Muise. It's 16:14 on July 24th.
4 We're investigating the incident with the Stretch Duck 7 from July
5 19th, and we're at the Taney County Ambulance District 1, your
6 only station, is that right?

7 MR. BUSCH: It's our main headquarters.

8 MR. MUISE: Main headquarters station. So, if you would,
9 just, can you give me your name, and title, and spell your name
10 for the record too please?

11 MR. BUSCH: Sure. It's Brandon. Do you need my first and
12 last name?

13 MR. MUISE: Yes please.

14 MR. BUSCH: It's Brandon Busch, B-R-A-N-D-O-N, and then
15 Busch, B-U-S-C-H. My position here at TCAD is an EMT basic with
16 an FTO title. I'm a field training officer here at Taney County.
17 I was part of the, I was on the crew that was the first initial
18 ambulance on scene for the showboat.

19 MR. MUISE: Do you want to just give your name so the
20 transcriptionist can --

21 MR. [REDACTED] Yeah. This is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm with the
22 U.S. Coast Guard.

INTERVIEW OF BRANDON BUSCH

23
24 BY MR. MUISE:

25 Q. So, Brandon, just tell us the story. Tell us what happened

1 that night. What you saw, what you heard.

2 A. Sure. Do you want me to start, like, all the way from the
3 beginning? Or --

4 Q. Yes please. Yeah.

5 A. Yeah, okay. Well, we were sitting at quarters on west
6 quarters, which is, it's out by the wax museum in the
7 intersection. Right about, Highway 165 and 76 is where our
8 station sits. And we were just enjoying your average Thursday
9 night in the medical field, normally just kicking back on a sofa.
10 And my partner was getting kind of weather updates.

11 As things were coming along, he says, whoa, this is a, you
12 know, there's a pretty interesting storm coming in, you know,
13 getting updates of power outages and things there in Springfield,
14 but they were so, you know, far between, and, you know, we didn't
15 think anything of it. And then out of nowhere, we thought that,
16 just rain hit the station. And us being, you know, the goobs that
17 we are, I know it's not a technical term, but we opened up our bay
18 door just to kind of see the wind kind of hit. And we're looking
19 at it, and we're watching the clouds and things, and that's -- and
20 so as we're sitting there watching the wind hit, and it was come
21 -- I mean, it's a pretty strong wind, it, surprisingly strong.

22 And we started hearing sirens going off because, since we're
23 in the city limits of Branson, normally we'll hear Branson Fire
24 and stuff, and they were headed to, at the time, they were headed
25 to a natural cover fire that was done by lightening. But then,

1 all of the sudden, prealert tones for us start up, and so we're
2 like, okay, what's going on? And our initial prealert tone was in
3 the area of the showboat, which normally if we get a prealert like
4 that, normally indicates an MVA. Branson is notorious that when
5 weather hits, tourists and things don't know how to drive on the
6 hills, so they hydroplane a lot of the times, and those are
7 normally the calls that we'll get in this type of weather
8 condition.

9 As we're driving to the call and we're headed, you know, we
10 get paged out right of the bat priority. No matter what, we'll
11 get paged out the door lights and sirens. And so we're headed out
12 the door, getting on 165, it has rained, or it is raining at the
13 time as we're driving. And we're going out, and as we're going
14 through our dispatch finally updates us on our navigator, which
15 is, it gives us the directions to the call, tells us what we're
16 going for, what we have going on, it indicates that at that time,
17 a duck had capsized.

18 So now my partner and I are sitting there, of course choice
19 words were said about what we may be getting into. And so we
20 drove, you know, we kind of stepped it up a little bit to get
21 there quicker, you know, a little quicker as we could. And we're
22 hearing radio traffic, and we have our supervisor unit that's
23 responding from our, from our main headquarters here in Hollister,
24 and another supervisor unit is kind of right behind him. And as
25 we're going, we hadn't quite made it on scene yet, but once our

1 supervisor saw that it was, on his MVT messages saw that it was a
2 capsized duck.

3 He initially radioed dispatch and told him, I don't know the
4 exact time or anything like that, but he initially told them, hey,
5 we probably should run this an MCI. We have three different
6 levels of MCIs, 1, 2, and 3. Judging by the numbers, and we just
7 went with a, we kind of went with a 2 because we weren't we didn't
8 know, at the time, we didn't know the number. So we ran it as a,
9 as a MCI level 2, which in that case we deploy pretty much all of
10 our trucks to the scene. And at that time, we had six on, I
11 think. And so five of them, one was on a call, so five of them
12 got paged out to the call.

13 We arrived what could have been maybe 2 minutes or so after
14 the first first responders got on scene, and our response time
15 from post, from our west quarters to showboat was about 7 minutes,
16 which is pretty good time for the weather conditions.

17 But as we're driving out, you can kind of see the whitecaps,
18 you know, as the water was coming through as we're going across
19 the dam, and my partner made mention at the time, he goes, man, he
20 goes, that water is ripping right now, as we're coming across. We
21 get into the showboat area, and we get told by our dispatch as
22 we're pulling in, that there's multiple CPR in progress. So we're
23 thinking, we're like, okay, great.

24 Well, now we're going to down having to work, you know, these
25 cardiac arrests and things. So we grabbed all of our equipment

1 that we needed, that we thought that we would need on scene,
2 (indiscernible) monitor, blue bag, the cot, our LUCAS device for
3 CPR compressions, a portable oxygen tank, you know, whatever we
4 thought that we would need, our portable suction device, because
5 at the time, our major, you know, our mind was we have multiple,
6 you know, we have multiple CPR that's going on in progress, so
7 nothing really indicated number of patients or anything like that
8 yet, until we got down the showboat. And at the time, the
9 showboat had a show that was going on, and so they were offloading
10 all of their customers at the same time at we're coming down the
11 gangway to get to the showboat.

12 The reason why we went to the rear end of the boat was
13 because that's where we saw the most mass of people. And if
14 you're familiar with how the showboat is built, it's built so that
15 people enter from the front of the boat and not in the back. But
16 as we're coming down, we see just mass of people on the back of
17 the showboat. We're coming down, you can see like lifejackets and
18 stuff kind of floating in the water. So we're, you know, we're
19 like, oh, okay, maybe, you know, maybe it's more of a recovery.
20 That's, you know, at least that's in my thought process as I was
21 coming through, because I saw a couple on the front, I saw a
22 couple on the back, you know, lifejacket-wise. Thinking, oh, this
23 is, you know, this is probably going to be recovering, we, maybe
24 we just have these two, you know, these two.

25 And because of the chaos, my partner right of the bat when we

1 walked in, because we came up, when everyone saw, here's the
2 ambulance, they go, we need you here, we need you up in the front,
3 we got people here on this, we got people here on this. And
4 that's when my partner yells to everybody, if you can hear my
5 voice, I need you to walk to the dock and I need you to clear out
6 of this area. And so he kind of went, he went to the rear end of
7 the dock to see what they had. \

8 I then, at that time, grabbed all of my, grabbed the blue bag
9 and the monitor, and heard we have a, you know, we have a, we're
10 doing CPR on a kid up here. So I grabbed my stuff and just went
11 headlong into the boat just to see, and from a quick glance
12 walking in, we had a couple, I could tell that there was maybe one
13 or two people that were on ground on this side when you walk into
14 the showboat, which was the actual floor of the dining hall. I
15 turn to the right, because this is where the EMS responder on the
16 showboat and two bystanders were doing CPR on, I think what to
17 looked be maybe a 7 to 10 year old child, African American child
18 on the back of the boat.

19 And so I came in, he gave me a quick size-up of what was
20 going on. He goes, I've, he goes, I've dropped a, he goes, I
21 already have an airway in, and he goes, and we, and they got,
22 they're bagging him with a BVM. So I went through and kind of,
23 you know, as I told, you know, as I, as we were telling our CIS
24 meeting, it just, it was one of their moments where you have a
25 situation like this, a kind of the emotion switch got clicked off,

1 because for me, this was my, this was my first pediatric cardiac
2 arrest that I've ever been on. And I've worked for, I've worked
3 for Taney County for 8 years now, and I've been on the road for
4 3½, maybe 4 of them. This was my first pediatric code of this
5 magnitude.

6 And when I went in, when I went in, I kind of started pulling
7 out all of our stuff for our code. So I was grabbing the
8 medications, grabbing all these things, and I realized that I
9 don't have my medic with me. So what happens is that my scope of
10 practice now moves away from the medications and things, and I
11 just wanted to see if we had any type of rhythm. So I got paddles
12 on him and we put the limb leads on the child just to kind of see.
13 He was asystole, so there was no shockable rhythm or anything, and
14 it was unknown, determined if, how long he'd been underwater, or
15 how long he'd been out. Because the Silver Dollar City guy that
16 was on scene that was the first aid officer for them, he didn't
17 know exactly how long the child had been underwater or anything
18 like that. And at that time, I didn't know the number or anything
19 of how many people we had until my partner came running back in
20 right towards the end of it. And he said, hey, he goes, we're, he
21 goes, is this, you know, this is a true MCI. He goes, we're going
22 to -- he goes, this, you know, if we're not having any pulses or
23 anything, we, I mean, we gave it a shot to try to help him out,
24 and with having no pluses or anything, we had to call it and mark
25 him as a black tag.

1 So of course, I, you know, the, it's that look that you get
2 from the bystanders that were assisting. One was a, was, I guess
3 was a trauma nurse was what she said, the other guy was a, was an
4 army person or ranger, or something, I don't know. I know that he
5 was in the military of some types, and he kept saying, he's like,
6 I just, you know, I'm really sorry. I just, when I see stuff like
7 this, I have to, you know, I have to help. And I told him, was
8 like, I completely understand.

9 So the job that I gave him was, I want you to just, if
10 they're walking, move them to the docks so we can try to get this
11 place cleared, because it still was kind of chaotic with Showboat
12 staff running all over the place, doing this, doing that. Their
13 Coast Guard guys were kind of all, I saw a few of them here and
14 there working on the tugboat in the back and trying to get people
15 off the paddles.

16 But with us, the thing that we run into is, the showboat for
17 us is a, like a communication black hole if you will, just because
18 it's not a line of sight or anything. So for us originally,
19 communication's kind of, was kind of blurred, trying to get,
20 trying to get out. But when I saw our supervisor, when Rick
21 showed up, and he came down to the dock, and I came out after, you
22 know, I had one of the staff members kind of guard the door where
23 the kid was, because his code, if you walk in the back door, you
24 make an immediate right to the stairwell there, he, we had, he was
25 doing the code in there. So it was one way in and out, no one can

1 really see what was going on back there, which in a way was kind
2 of a blessing for that scene, because it wasn't the, wasn't the
3 prettiest. And so I, you know, I covered him up, had one of the
4 staff member stand guard at the door mostly because, you know,
5 because of the child being there and our equipment.

6 And so I went to my supervisor and told him what we had going
7 on, because he came in and became, at that time, the command for
8 the medical side of things when he, when he got on the scene. And
9 I told him what we had going on face to face. I was like, this is
10 what we got going on, I was like, I don't know right now where my
11 partner is, but this is what I have going on. He goes, okay. And
12 so, he goes, we still have some that are on the boat. He goes,
13 can you triage them and get them out? I was like, I'll do that.

14 So I ran back into the boat, triaged the captain, or
15 narrator, or whatever, I don't know what job title they have, but
16 I know that he wasn't the driver because he, because everybody
17 around said this isn't the driver. So I'm like, okay. And they
18 just kept calling him the captain because he had one of the duck
19 uniforms on, and so he was in a daze when we were there. So when
20 I triaged them, I was able to get him to talk to me a little bit
21 and, you know, just kind of did a quick little triage thing. Are
22 you hurting anywhere, having any difficulty breathing, those kind
23 of things? He goes, no, I'm just, I'm just really tired. I was
24 like, okay. I was like, well if we get you up, can we move you to
25 this wheelchair? And, well yeah, he goes, yeah sure.

1 So we, so fire wheels him out. The other two kind of walked
2 out with a little assistance from the staff members. They got
3 them out. But with those two it was such a blur. I couldn't, I
4 mean, I can't really put a face or description to them when they,
5 when they got hauled out.

6 Then I came back out, met up with the supervisor again, told
7 him that I got all the patients, you know, all the patients on
8 this end out of the boat, and then I went into triage. And when I
9 went into the triage area, which is located, if you have the
10 loading ramp, you guys have probably seen the breakdown. So
11 you've got the loading ramp, and that's pretty much where fire
12 command was.

13 Our second supervisor, who became the staging operator for
14 our ambulances coming in, because at that time, we had, we had
15 two, almost three of our ambulances show up, boom, boom, boom. I
16 mean it was, they were, they were there real quick. I'm pretty
17 sure that all of our critical patients we had, I think we had them
18 transported out what felt like within the first 10 minutes, 10,
19 maybe 15 minutes max. We had our one red, and then our yellow got
20 transported out just after that. But most of our patients at that
21 time, from what I understood, were either green or they were black
22 tagged. And I didn't have an exact number when I went into
23 triage, I just knew that there was a lot of people there and a lot
24 of firefighters around.

25 And I got bombarded on all sides, because here comes a Taney

1 County ambulance, you know, employee walking in, and then it's
2 just, hey, we got, you know, this patient's got these vitals, this
3 patient's got these vitals, we got these vitals, and I kind of sat
4 there for a second. I was like, okay, wait. And it was that, for
5 me, because of that situation, that's when like, the emotion
6 switch kind of flickered for a second. I was like, no, hold on.
7 I have a job to do. And so I had fire stay with, I had fire stay
8 with the first patient, which was an African American lady. I had
9 fire stay with her. And then I went around and had another
10 firefighter stay with another patient that they were giving me
11 vitals on. I was like, just stay here, I was like, I'll be right
12 back.

13 PD, one of the officers, I don't know if he was Highway
14 Patrol or who he was, he was already going around and getting
15 names, and kind of getting us the names of the people that were on
16 the duck in that area. So he was always working on that.

17 I then ran to our truck, grabbed our MCI kit, which is
18 actually that right there, grabbed our MCI kit, which has pretty
19 much, I mean, everything you need for like a quick triage kind of
20 stuff. So you get name information, you mark whether or not
21 they've been transported, not transported, what, you know, what
22 color tag they have on them, or what, you know, what color tag
23 they've been deemed. And I went back in to get kind of a more
24 official headcount of what we had, and so when I met up with PD
25 again, I told him, hey, it was like, get all these names. I was

1 like, I'm going to go in the opposite direction, we'll kind of
2 meet in the middle and we'll collaborate on what we have.

3 That's when I ran into my partner again, and that's when they
4 were transporting the African American lady and the nephew because
5 she was going from a, she originally started as a green, and then
6 moved into the yellow. She kind of switched on us while she was,
7 while she was in triage. And so they transported her out really
8 quick, and that's the first time that I had really met up with my
9 partner to figure out what our number is. Because all I knew at
10 the time was that we had maybe five at, when we first showed up,
11 and then he looks at me. I was like, hey, what's our number? And
12 he goes, 30. And I was like, no. He goes, yes. I was like,
13 okay, great.

14 So I'm looking at the numbers I have from the people that,
15 you know, that are green tagged that are in triage, and I'm like,
16 okay, can we run over our numbers real quick? He goes, yeah sure.
17 So I went over, was like, okay, on the boat we have five J4s,
18 right? He goes, yes. I was like, okay, J4s losing or black tags.
19 So I was like, okay, we have one that showed up at State Park
20 Marina. He goes, yes. So we marked that one. Then we had, he's
21 like, well, we transported two right off the bat. So like, okay,
22 those two were gone. I was like, okay, these two? He goes, yes.
23 So I'm adding two more to that list. And it was before I really
24 got any of the transport names, so I didn't have them marked down
25 on my stuff. PD, however, had the last two that I was standing

1 next to. And I went back through and just kind of met up with
2 everybody, just kind of to figure out what was going on.

3 But yeah, I mean, it was a little, I mean, I'm not going to
4 lie, it was a little chaotic for the majority of it. But the
5 thing is is that I, for some reason, I process well in an
6 organized chaos world, so where I moved the patients in triage, if
7 they didn't move, unless I saw them, or, you know, I had, you
8 know, I had a hand on them to give them the blessing, then I knew
9 where they went. So everyone that was in triage was all accounted
10 for, and the only number that I could come up with, that I was
11 coming up with was just shy of 20 of what I was getting. And so I
12 didn't know at the time that we were still pulling people out of
13 the water or anything like that, or where they were putting all of
14 those, all of those patients.

15 But yeah, everybody else that was, that was there, like we
16 had another family that was totally accounted for, and then, you
17 know, the two girls that had lost, that pretty much were by
18 themselves, those, and those two, those two were as strong as can
19 be. I mean, it was, it was actually quite amazing with the
20 situation and everything.

21 But I kind of became, as we were organizing stuff, and Robby
22 was trying to minimize our scene as much as possible to make sure
23 that we got everybody up at least into the triage area, things
24 started organizing a little quicker. And then it just was, then I
25 became the gopher, you know? If I heard on the radio, hey, we

1 need somebody to do this, I was there, and then I was here, and
2 then I was here. So I kind of, I was the blur on scene a lot of
3 the times. But yeah, I mean if someone needed assistance with
4 something, I was there doing that. If, you know, going around
5 doing those things, because when Robby finally made it up into
6 triage, he kind of took over the triage area, and then we
7 transported, the very last ones I think were the two girls that we
8 transported out, just because Robby had made contact I think with
9 one of their, one of their family members who were out of state or
10 something like that. I'm not 100 percent sure on what it all was,
11 but I know that he made contact with the family because she had
12 lost her grandmother in the process, and that was the only person
13 she was there with. And so Robby made sure that both of those
14 girls were transported together in the same rig to the hospital,
15 and that somebody was with them the entire time.

16 And then as things kind of, as things kind of quieted down
17 and we were trying to match numbers, and match names, and trying
18 to figure out, you know, where everything, you know, where
19 everything was, and how everything was going, we got, all of our
20 other ambulances were cleared from the call. We had one crew that
21 came in, TCA1, they came down and they stayed for pretty much,
22 they stayed for all the rest of the dive stuff that was going on,
23 and we got released from scene only to immediately tag a cardiac
24 arrest across town, and then got canceled from that to go to an
25 overdose in Hollister.

1 So we, I mean we were kind of going, going, going, which was
2 nice that we got, we got canceled from both of those which sounds
3 really bad on the recording, but we had a truck that were, we had
4 trucks that were closer to those calls that came available so that
5 our, so that, so that we could be out of service for a little bit
6 just because of the stuff that was going on. So, I mean, yeah. I
7 mean, that's kind of the whole --

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. -- rigamaroon in a nutshell.

10 Q. Good, that's some good details there. Can we go over the
11 numbers real quick? So, I heard you say four black tags that were
12 on the boat?

13 A. On the boat I marked, I marked five black tags.

14 Q. Five black tags on the boat?

15 A. Yeah. As to their exact locations, I couldn't really tell
16 you.

17 Q. You said, you transported two, was that include, the, those
18 are the two girls that you transported?

19 A. No. When I did my initial numbers, the names that I didn't
20 have were the, were the five black tags on the boat.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. And we originally transported, we transported two from the
23 get-go, or at least that's what I got when I talked to Robby, is
24 that we had two transports. And that was prior to me making it to
25 triage. I added, I --

1 Q. Were you the first one on the scene?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. Yeah. We were the very first ones. I didn't get the numbers
5 or so until I had, I was done with the pediatric code and had, and
6 had made my way back to triage. I mean, timing-wise, I don't, I
7 don't know. It didn't feel like I was, like I was on the boat for
8 very long.

9 Q. Will the dispatch log have that information in it? Like who
10 took what?

11 A. Oh yeah. It'll have --

12 Q. And what tags they were?

13 A. It should. I believe the dispatch log from when we looked at
14 our action, our after action on Monday, yesterday, it has
15 timestamps of when units arrived, and which ones transported, and
16 where they, and where they transported to. I know that TCA1 was
17 the one that had the original red tag. And they were the --

18 Q. Was that Gera (ph.)?

19 A. Yeah, that's Gera, yeah.

20 Q. That's TCA1?

21 A. Yeah, that's TCA1. She had the original red tag. Ben and
22 Doug who are TCA8 took the captain.

23 Q. Was he yellow?

24 A. Yeah. He --

25 Q. Were they the second on scene?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. That's TCA11?

3 A. TCA8. TCA11 was the first one on scene.

4 Q. Oh, I'm sorry.

5 A. Yeah, because that's the truck that Robby and I were in, was,
6 we were in 11.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. The first, those two were kind of a battle of who got there
9 first, TCA1 or TCA8 --

10 Q. Sure.

11 A. -- you know, after us. But I know that Gera was the first in
12 TCA1, that was the first transport out, and that was the red tag.
13 And then TCA8 had the captain, which was the yellow tag. And
14 those were the two that I never really, I mean, aside from the
15 captain when I triaged him in the, in the boat, I never got a name
16 or, like a name or anything on him when he went into triage --

17 Q. The black --

18 A. -- because he was gone prior to (indiscernible) --

19 Q. -- female that went from green to yellow, who transported
20 her?

21 A. That is going to be a Mercy Unit.

22 Q. Okay. That's fine.

23 A. I couldn't tell you exactly which one.

24 Q. And then, there was another one that you said the
25 firefighters, you assigned a firefighter to --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- babysit?

3 A. But she stayed green.

4 Q. She was, she stayed green? Okay.

5 A. Yeah. She --

6 Q. Was she pediatric?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Geriatric?

9 A. Right around 12 or 13, somewhere around there. She was there
10 with her mom.

11 Q. Caucasian?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Yeah. She was there with her mom.

15 Q. She was with her mom?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Was her mom on the boat?

18 A. Yes. I think her mom was one of the, one of the passengers
19 that was on there.

20 Q. Was another green tag?

21 A. Yeah. They both were green.

22 Q. I'm sorry. The captain went on TCA8?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. He did? Okay.

25 A. Yeah. And at, and at first when I triaged him, he was green.

1 There wasn't anything that indicated, that indicated with the, you
2 know, with our, with our quick triage stuff that indicated him
3 moving in any other direction. And then I think when he got into
4 triage, he started moving into a yellow.

5 Q. Okay. Do you recognize this phone number, 334-1441?

6 A. Yes. That is our emergency line, or one of our lines here in
7 dispatch.

8 Q. So if I'm a crewmember on the *Belle*, and I called that number
9 instead of calling 911, how much time am I saving?

10 A. Well, in this county, you're, it's a direct line to ambulance
11 dispatch, directly. If you dial 911, so we have, Taney County is
12 set up with three, there's three dispatch centers. If you're
13 counting, if you're calling from a cell phone or anywhere outside
14 of the city limits of Branson, you'll go to Taney County's
15 dispatch, and they dispatch out police, fire. And then if they
16 say, if the person on there goes, hey, I need an ambulance, then
17 they automatically will trump it down to us. We're a tertiary
18 trump I guess, in the county. So we don't get the primary calls,
19 but we'll, we used to be able to monitor through the 911 system,
20 but we now have a new 911 system, and I'm a little hazy as to what
21 it can actually do.

22 Q. I've had all the witnesses tell me if they called 911 that it
23 will ring in Harrison County. Where is that? Is there such a
24 thing?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Maybe I got that wrong.

2 A. No, there is. To be honest, I don't, I don't know exactly
3 where. I know Boone County is just south of us. Harrison may be
4 next to it, may be, it may be in Arkansas. This new 911 system is
5 interesting, because I don't know, I don't know how the new 911
6 system exactly works. But I know that like, that our supervisor
7 for the dispatch center, they'd be able to describe it. Because
8 yeah, there's times that, like with, like with Showboat calls, it
9 will go to, it would go to Stone County. It'll bounce of, like a
10 tower in Kimberling City and it will go to Stone County probably
11 almost every time. And then they drop it onto us, so yeah, we're
12 not, like I said, our call center right now is not up, it's not a
13 primary, I know it's not the primary call center.

14 Q. Okay. Who's Rick Lawler?

15 A. Rick Lawler is the night supervisor. He actually will be
16 here, he'll be here tonight. He'll be here at, probably around
17 5:30 is when his shift starts up, so about an hour.

18 Q. Did he get there before you guys?

19 A. No. We got there probably about 3, 4 minutes before he did.

20 Q. When he got there, did he just take over triage? Was that --

21 A. He took over command, the medical command for us, and then
22 came, and then he came down the showboat, because right behind him
23 was Rob Test, who was the other supervisor that showed up on
24 scene.

25 Q. Which triage procedure do you guys, or protocol do you use?

1 What, is there a name for it?

2 A. For triaging?

3 Q. Yeah.

4 A. We do, it's like a quick triage. I mean, I can show you
5 the --

6 Q. I'm just, there's several different ones out there. I'm just
7 curious which one you use.

8 A. Oh yeah, well we call it the quick triage, meaning that
9 basically if they hit, if they, if you show up on scene for a, you
10 know, MCI incident, and you are the triage person, you know,
11 ideally, you want to kind of move through fairly quickly if it's a
12 big one, you know, go patient, patient, patient. If it's not
13 something, you know, if there, if they hit certain parameters --

14 Q. Right.

15 A. -- of what they are, then we mark them as a green, or yellow,
16 or red, and then, you know, and then black. But we'll do --

17 Q. Is there a yellow and an orange? Or is it just green, red,
18 green, green, yellow, red?

19 A. It'd be, yeah, just green, yellow, red, black is what we got.

20 Q. Okay. Is that different than START triage?

21 A. No. It may, it may actually be the exact same thing. I keep
22 calling it quick triage, but I know that my, I use weird jargon as
23 it is. Yeah, this is all our stuff for it. So we run, that's not
24 it, yeah, all our equipment is in, is in our, these boxes for the
25 MCIs. The clipboard that I'm looking for is actually not in here,

1 which is a great way to start. But, it will show, it shows
2 basically what we have. And there's a, the one clipboard that's
3 missing is the one that actually has our flow chart of what we
4 have and what we use. I think it, I think it may actually be the
5 START triage now that I sit and think about it.

6 Q. Okay. Do you still have the accountability forms for that
7 night?

8 A. I do not. Rick was the, I handed my stuff off to Rick.

9 Q. Okay. How long had you been on duty that night?

10 A. Not very long. We were the 5 to 5 truck that night, and we
11 were on scene just after 7, I think. So we were only on scene, we
12 were only on duty for, well I was only on duty for about 2 hours.
13 I think Robby was working, Robby had come in earlier that day.

14 Q. How much sleep did you get the day, that day before?

15 A. Oh, that day was a ton. We got, I got, I was held over, I
16 kind of got stuck, held over the, I got a late call the night
17 before. I was on the 6:30 truck and I had pretty much slept all
18 the way up until I had to leave my house at 4. So I got, I got
19 tons of sleep. So --

20 Q. Do you, do you have another job besides this one?

21 A. Me? No, not right now.

22 Q. Is that typical for, do EMTs, law enforcement around here
23 run, moonlight on doing other jobs putting, in their off time?

24 A. No, not normally. I mean, some of the, some other ones
25 have --

1 Q. Do they play paramedic on one agency and then go to another
2 agency the next day?

3 A. Not, well not that I know around here. I know that, I know
4 that Robby doesn't. Some of the Branson EMTs that are on the
5 Branson Fire trucks, those guys will sometimes be like, I know one
6 of them is a Mercy, a Mercy guy. He'll work on Mercys on his days
7 off. But other than that, most of us are, when we work at TCAD,
8 we work at TCAD, unless it's our part time people that have, they
9 have other jobs. But most of our full time employees are here.

10 Q. So Branson Fire runs EMS as well?

11 A. If we're in the, if we have any calls in the city limits of
12 Branson, we automatically get Fire paged. That's part of their
13 procedures and stuff.

14 Q. Do they have their own EMS?

15 A. They do not, no.

16 Q. Okay. So you cover Branson as Branson City?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. We, yeah. We cover everything in Taney County, and so we
20 have, the majority of our trucks are sitting in Branson. But with
21 this call, it was all, it was Western Volunteer Fire that showed
22 up.

23 Q. The crew on *The Belle*, how was their first aid training? How
24 did it, how did it, I mean, were you impressed, not impressed?
25 Did they make --

1 A. Well, I mean --

2 Q. -- serious mistakes? Or --

3 A. Oh no, not that I saw. I was thoroughly impressed with how,
4 you know, with how fast, you know, he had King dropped and
5 everything, you know, a King Airway dropped, and they were already
6 bagging the pediatric when I got in there.

7 Q. The *Belle* crew was doing that?

8 A. Yeah. He had it already dropped prior to me getting on
9 scene. And I don't know exactly what all of their training is,
10 but I know that on their staff, they do, depending on whose night
11 it is on the showboat, sometimes it's an EMT Basic or it's an
12 actual Medic that's on there. I don't know how far his training
13 is or anything like that, but from what I saw, I didn't see
14 anything that was, you know, that was, that was out of the norm.
15 The only thing that happened that I noticed was that when we
16 started going into the triage mode and everything, I didn't see
17 any of them after that. And they wear pretty bright red shirts,
18 but I didn't see anybody after that, after that pediatric code.
19 But, of course, that wasn't who I was looking for. I was --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. -- preoccupied with my stuff.

22 Q. Last question. What level ICS training have you had?

23 A. ICS?

24 Q. Incident Command System.

25 A. We had one not too long ago. Normally, probably maybe about

1 once a year we'll kind of do an in-service class on it, and then
2 every 2, I think maybe every 2 years we do a full airport drill.
3 So we'll run an entire MCI drill out at the airport, and with
4 multiple agencies, and helicopters, and all of that. And that
5 kind of, and they, normally they'll kind of pick it random who,
6 you know, who goes to that and who doesn't.

7 Q. Have you heard of ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300?

8 A. Oh yeah.

9 Q. Have you heard of those classes?

10 A. Yeah.

11 MR. MUISE: Okay. Mr. [REDACTED]

12 BY MR. [REDACTED]

13 Q. Hi. I'm [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the Coast Guard. I just have some
14 follow-up questions, Brandon.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. And some of them are to help our recorder because you're
17 dropping a lot of letters and acronyms.

18 A. Oh, sorry.

19 Q. So I just want to, I just want to help out a little. So MCI
20 stands for what?

21 A. Mass Casualty Incident.

22 Q. Okay. And then you also say TCA.

23 A. Oh, sorry. Taney County Ambulance.

24 Q. So when --

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. So when you're referring to TC County A8 or 3, what does that
2 mean?

3 A. That's Taney County Ambulance 8. Each one of our trucks have
4 a number designation on them. So when we are giving, like reports
5 to the hospital, or talking back and forth between crew members,
6 it'll be TCA1, you know, TCA1, TCA8. And then, you know, then 8
7 will respond. And we'll know kind of what truck, for us, that's
8 the indicator for us. So our preference is TCA, which is Taney
9 County Ambulance, and the number designation for that truck.

10 Q. Okay. And that night you were in?

11 A. We were in, we were in Taney County Ambulance 11.

12 Q. Eleven?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. And then another question, follow-up, you mentioned,
15 they asked you about, or, they asked you about the *Branson Belle*,
16 they were doing triage I guess when you got there. And you'd said
17 someone was dropping a bag, or you were complimenting someone on
18 the *Belle*.

19 A. Oh.

20 Q. Who was it that you were complimenting on --

21 A. It was, it was the EMS provider that's on the showboat.
22 With --

23 Q. Do you know --

24 A. I'm, yeah. Ask me his name, I mean, I don't remember. I
25 don't, I don't remember his name. But I know that Silver Dollar

1 City itself, with their first aid station, they have, for their
2 major parks I guess, if you will, for Silver Dollar City, White
3 Water, and for the Showboat *Branson Belle*, which are their major
4 attractions, they have a medical provider that's on, that's on
5 scene. And that, normally if we get called to the showboat,
6 that's the person that we, that we report to when we get there.
7 So we'll get, because they'll do first initial care. And like I
8 said, their area of practice is different because some of them are
9 medics, some of them are just EMT basics, so it's a little
10 different of what they are, but they pretty much take a first
11 responder role on scene to do initial care for whatever patients
12 that need to, need to be done. And those are, those are our
13 contact points on any of the parks that we go to.

14 Q. Have you ever worked with that person before?

15 A. No. Have I seen him before? Yes. But I have not worked
16 with him before directly, no.

17 Q. Okay. How did you know he was the EMT then?

18 A. He had a red shirt on that indicates, it had the Silver
19 Dollar City emblem on it, and it says underneath what he is.
20 That's their, that's their identifiers normally. They wear, they
21 wear the bright red shirts with the Silver Dollar City emblem, and
22 then it'll say either EMT-P, which is paramedic, or EMT-B for
23 basic underneath. They'll have a nametag maybe somewhere, but
24 they'll normally be having the same utility pants that we have.
25 Plus he had his gear bag and stuff that was there as well. And so

1 that's who I got my contact information from.

2 Q. Okay. Did you see anybody else? Like a sheriff or anybody
3 else there providing assistance as well when you got there?

4 A. Sheriff-wise, no, I did not. All I saw was that on the back
5 of the boat, when they were pulling, they were, it looked like
6 they were trying to pull people out of the water off the, because
7 there, I guess people were holding on to the paddlewheels. I
8 didn't, I didn't see it when I first showed up because my mind
9 went into, you know, let's get in, you know, inside the showboat
10 and see what we got going on in here. But when we showed up,
11 there were staff members, some of the wait staff that were helping
12 bring people up on the dock off the back. And I'm pretty sure
13 that most of the Coast Guard staff that's on the showboat were
14 probably on that end as well because they have their tugboat kind
15 of parked on the back dock. And they were kind of just pulling
16 people up left and right over there. So --

17 Q. Okay. And then, I just have one more question, and it has to
18 do with your tag colors. So you have, I'm looking at a triage
19 accountability form from you guys, and I see G, Y, R, B.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell me what that is, and then what level, you know,
22 how to I get to the, each level --

23 A. Got you.

24 Q. -- and stuff?

25 A. Well, the G is the green one. So basically if they can walk

1 from the scene, if they can hear our voice and they can physically
2 walk with little to no assistance, they get marked automatically
3 as a green tag.

4 If it's a yellow, normally that's somebody that may have an
5 injury that kind of either hinders them from moving, they may need
6 a little bit of assistance there, their blood pressure or pulse
7 rate may be a little elevated, or they're having just a little
8 bit, a little bit of difficult, a little, sorry, a little bit
9 difficulty but can be treated on scene with no need to really, you
10 know, with little to no need of being transported to a higher
11 facility.

12 If it's a red tag, those normally are your life threats. So
13 if we've put a tourniquets on them, if they need an advanced
14 airway, if they, you know, if they have anything that's life
15 threatening at that time, they're marked red tag and they get
16 shipped out immediately.

17 Black tags are going to be the ones that, you know, if they
18 come up and they're unconscious, not alert, you know, if they're,
19 if you, they're not responding to anything and if they're not
20 breathing, or if, you know, even if they have agonal respiration,
21 which means that they're, they have very shallow breathing, and if
22 we reassess their airway and there's no change, and we notice that
23 there's probably no pulse, or they're grey in color, anything like
24 that that would indicate no signs of immediate life, then those
25 are marked black tag and we kind of, we kind of move on from them.

1 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you, Brandon.

2 MR. BUSCH: Yeah.

3 MR. MUISE: Brandon, I have no follow-up questions. Thank
4 you. Is there anything else you want to share with us?

5 MR. BUSCH: No. Not at all.

6 MR. MUISE: Okay. With that, we'll go off the record. It's
7 1655.

8 (Whereupon, at 4:55 p.m., the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: CAPSIZE AND SINKING OF STRETCH DUCK 7
 ON TABLE ROCK LAKE, BRANSON, MISSOURI,
 JULY 19, 2018
 Interview of Brandon Busch

ACCIDENT NO.: DCA18MM028

PLACE: Hollister, Missouri

DATE: July 24, 2018

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Christy Wilson
Transcriber