



ACCIDENT SUMMARY

MULTIVEHICLE WORK ZONE CRASH Chattanooga, Tennessee

HWY15MH009
(3 Pages)



**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY WASHINGTON, D.C.**

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

A. ACCIDENT

Type: Multivehicle Work Zone Crash
Date and Time: June 25, 2015 at 7:10 p.m. EDT
Location: Interstate 75 (I-75) Milepost 11.7 Hamilton County, Chattanooga, TN
Vehicle #1: 2007 Peterbilt tractor, 2005 Great Dane semitrailer
Operator#1: Cool Running
Vehicle #2: 2010 Prius
Vehicle #3: 2010 Scion
Vehicle #4: 2005 GMC
Vehicle #5: 2003 Mazda
Vehicle #6: 2001 Ford pick up
Vehicle #7: 2007 Chevy Uplander
Vehicle #8: 2014 Cadillac
Vehicle #9: 2015 Toyota pick up
Fatalities: 6
Injuries: 4

NTSB #: HWY15MH009

C. ACCIDENT SUMMARY

On Thursday, June 25, 2015, about 7:10 p.m., a 2007 Peterbilt truck-tractor in combination with a 2005 Great Dane semitrailer, operated by Cool Runnings Express, Inc., was traveling northbound in the center lane of Interstate 75 (I-75), near Chattanooga, Tennessee, when it struck the rear of a 2010 Toyota Prius at an estimated speed of 78–82 mph.¹ The truck-tractor combination, occupied by a 39-year-old driver and a 38-year-old passenger, had departed Haines City, Florida, at 5:16 a.m. that day. The final destination was the carrier terminal in London, Kentucky.

Traffic had been moving slowly because of a lane closure and construction at milepost (MP) 12. Following the initial collision near MP 11.7, the truck tractor combination and Prius continued forward, and collided with the Scion and the GMC. The truck-tractor then struck the Mazda, which remained in contact with the front of the combination vehicle as they moved forward into the Ford, Chevrolet, Cadillac and Toyota. A post-crash fire consumed the Scion.

Six people died as a result of this crash, including the drivers of the Prius and the Mazda, and the four occupants of the Scion. One person was seriously injured, three people sustained minor injuries, and eight others were uninjured (including the truck driver and his passenger). At the time of the crash, it was daylight with clear weather and a dry road surface. The posted speed limit in the work zone was 60 mph.

END OF REPORT

¹ (a) Throughout this report, the accident truck-tractor, in combination with the semitrailer, is interchangeably referred to as the “truck-tractor” or the “combination vehicle.” (b) The 78–82 mph is a calculated impact speed derived from the change in velocity recorded by the Prius event data recorder (EDR).