



CRASH SUMMARY

PALM SPRINGS, CA

October 23, 2016

Approximately 5:16 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)

HWY17MH005

(2 pages)

CRASH SUMMARY

On Sunday, October 23, 2016, about 5:16 a.m. Pacific daylight savings time, a crash occurred near mile marker 32.5 on westbound lanes of Interstate 10 (I-10), outside Palm Springs, California. Approximately 10 minutes prior to the crash, California Highway Patrol (CHP) conducted a traffic break for east and westbound traffic on I-10 in support of utility work that was being performed about a mile and a half west of the crash location.

At that time, a 2015 International Prostar truck-tractor in combination with a 2012 Utility semitrailer was traveling westbound on I-10 and stopped when it reached the end of the traffic queue that formed as a result of the traffic break. Several minutes later, the CHP patrol vehicle ended the break and allowed the westbound traffic to start moving again. However, the combination vehicle remained stopped in the center-right lane of the 4-lane roadway, and according to witness statements, was stationary as the westbound traffic flowed normally.

About 3 minutes after the traffic break ended, a 1996 Motor Coach Industries International, Inc. (MCI) 47-passenger motorcoach, operated by USA Holiday was traveling westbound on I-10, at highway speed and towards the stopped combination vehicle. The bus, which was occupied by a 59-year old driver and 42 passengers, struck the rear of the semitrailer, intruding about 13 feet, and pushing the combination vehicle 71 feet forward before coming to a stop. As a result of the crash, the bus driver and 12 passengers died, and the truck driver and 30 passengers were injured.