

October 5, 2016

Responses to questions from Rick Narvell, Human Performance Investigator, NTSB

Question No. 1

“Cody was working in Oklahoma City for Fred Jones Manufacturing in Oklahoma City. A family member worked for the BNSF railroad and encouraged Cody to change jobs. Cody applied and was initially hired for a position in the track department. Shortly after he started to work for the railroad he changed departments to become an engineer.

“I not know his exact hire date or his seniority dates on the railroad.”

Question No. 2

Mrs. Owens does not recall specifically Cody’s work/rest schedule for the 96 hours (four days) before the accident. She does not remember when he had worked prior to being called to work the morning of June 28, 2016.

“Cody did not work on June 27, 2016, and the family spent the day together in Amarillo, TX. The entire family – Cody, me, Zackry and Riley went to Amarillo to have dinner with Ty, our oldest son, who was living in Amarillo. I believe we went to the Hofbrau Steakhouse and then to a movie. It was an earlier show. After the movie we all returned to Claude, TX. Cody and Ty worked on their project, a 1976 Dodge pickup truck on the driveway, until approximately 10:00 p.m.

“I fell asleep that evening around 10:30 p.m. and Cody went to bed before Midnight.

“Shortly after 6:00 a.m. Cody was dressed for work and woke me. We visited – small talk – and he gave me a kiss ‘goodbye’. He left around 6:30 a.m. because he said he had to get to work.”

Question No. 2(a)

“Yes, there were times when Cody would say that he was tired from his work on the railroad. Every railroader is tired and fatigued at some time because that is what happens when you work on the railroad. However, he did not complain of being ‘extremely tired or fatigued’. Cody always wanted to get his rest before going to work. He recognized that the demands of his job required him to be rested and there would be situations when his rest time would change and be shortened.

“Cody never experienced sudden weaknesses caused by emotional stress. He did not have what most people would consider to be ‘normal times’ for retiring and waking because he worked a pool turn and did not have regular work times. What was normal for Cody would be to watch the work board and try to estimate when he would go out. He always wanted to be rested.

“Cody was not a night person. Rest was a priority for him and he slept whenever he could to get his rest. In fact, we kept a ‘dark room’ for him in the house for that reason. He would try to get his rest when he got home from a trip because he knew he could get ‘called out’ again for a train.

“To my knowledge Cody had no sleeping disorder. Five or six years ago he saw Dr. Robert Stroud, his allergy doctor, at Quail Creek Ear, Nose and Throat, Amarillo, TX, and was given a mask and machine because he snored. He hardly ever used it. Cody had problems with his tonsils and they were removed when he was 50. After he had his tonsils removed he never used the mask although he still snored.

“The only times he complained of daytime sleepiness would be after he had worked all night on the railroad. He never dozed off with little or no warning while eating, driving or in public. He never complained of waking up and not being able to move.”

### Question No. 3

“Cody was a healthy person. He was the kind of person who was always ‘ready to go’.

“I know Cody took prescription medication for a thyroid problem and cholesterol control and Zyrtec for allergies. He took Synthroid, the thyroid medication, 150 mcg., each morning. I know it was a daily dosage and I believe he had been taking the medication for the past 10 to 15 years. The doctor told him his problem was genetic.

“He took Simvastatin, the cholesterol medication, 40 mg., for the past 15 to 20 years. His cholesterol was under control. Zyrtec was a preventative/maintenance dosage. He was taking one tablet a day for about one month.

“Cody also had prescriptions for Cialis, 20 mg., prescribed in July 2015; AndroGel lotion, 20.25 mg., prescribed in July 2015; and, Nuvigil, 150 mg., 1 tablet daily, prescribed in May 2016.

“I do not have any of Cody’s prescription medications or can tell you when they were last filled or the number of pills left in the container. Cody carried his medications with him and were probably in his grip on the engine when he died.

“Personally, I noticed no adverse effects from any medications that Cody was taking.”

Question No. 4

“Cody and I met when I was 16 years old and he was 18 years old. He hardly ever had a beer or anything else because I did not and do not drink. In the past several years, on an occasional weekend, he drank one or two beers if he was bbqing.

“Cody did not use illegal drugs.”

Question No. 5

“Cody and I had a strong marriage. We had our challenges and we worked those issues out of our marriage. Cody provided a good income and we were able to meet our financial obligations.

“Several family members died between 2010 and 2014, and it was not easy when they died. At the time of Cody’s death there were no excess stresses in Cody’s life that I am aware of that may have distracted or preoccupied him.”

Question No. 6

“Cody had good vision. He could see things in the distance but he started to need glasses for reading. His glasses were a weak prescription and he wore his glasses infrequently.

“Cody wore hearing aids. He has worn them for several years. He got the hearing aids in Amarillo at Livingston Audiology and Hearing Aid Center, 1600 Coulter Street. I don’t know the exact model but they were expensive.”

Question No. 7

“Cody was not one to complain. When he had a job to do he would do it. He had a good attitude about working on the railroad. He knew he would be able to provide for us, his family. His only complaint about working on the railroad was that he was missing time with the family.

“Many railroaders told me that he was one of the best to work with and did his job the right way. People told me at the funeral service for Cody that he was always a pleasure to work with. ”

Question No. 8

“The only railroad incident that I am aware of was a speeding violation. I believe it happened around October 14, 2015. I think Cody was given 30 days suspension for that violation. The railroad should have the information.”

Question No. 9

“I have no further information to add to the investigation.”

*Signature*

Cynthia L. Owens