



**HUMAN PERFORMANCE FACTORS**

**Attachment 3 – Motorcoach Driver’s Son Interview Transcript**

**Palm Springs, CA**

**HWY17MH005**

(17 pages)

STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

\* \* \* \* \*

Investigation of: \*

TOUR BUS COLLISION WITH SEMI-TRUCK \*  
ON INTERSTATE 10 NEAR DESERT HOT \*  
SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA ON \*  
OCTOBER 23, 2016 \*

Accident No.: HWY17MH005

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: CARLOS VIDES

California Highway Patrol  
East Los Angeles Office  
California

Monday,  
October 31, 2016

## APPEARANCES:

KENNETH BRAGG, Highway Accident Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

JOHN ISBISTER, Officer  
Border Division MAIT  
California Highway Patrol

FRANCISCO REYNOSO  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)  
U.S. Department of Transportation

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>I N D E X</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Interview of Carlos Vides:		
By Mr. Bragg		4
By Officer Isbister		11
By Mr. Bragg		13

I N T E R V I E W

(11:15 a.m.)

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2  
3 MR. BRAGG: So today is Monday, October 31st. It's about  
4 11:15, and we are in East L.A. CHP office. My name is  
5 Kenny Bragg. I'm an investigator from the National Transportation  
6 Safety Board.

7 Please state your name for me.

8 MR. VIDES: My name is Carlos Vides.

9 MR. BRAGG: Carlos Vides. And we also have?

10 OFFICER ISBISTER: Officer John Isbister with the California  
11 Highway Patrol Border Division, MAIT.

12 MR. REYNOSO: Francisco Reynoso, U.S. Department of  
13 Transportation, FMCSA.

## INTERVIEW OF CARLOS VIDES

14  
15 BY MR. BRAGG:

16 Q. And so your father -- do you live with your father?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And that's what I want to talk to you a little bit, just a  
19 little bit about just basic background stuff. What we're trying  
20 to do is, we're trying to, we're trying to eliminate some of the  
21 speculation about crazy things. So we're going to ask you -- I'm  
22 going to ask you things about his medical background, if you know  
23 it, where he may go to the doctor, has he ever been in the  
24 hospital, stuff like that. So --

25 A. Just to clarify again.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. My father was private. I wouldn't know as much. So I don't  
3 know how I'm going to help.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. But I'll answer the questions to the best of my ability,  
6 obviously. And --

7 Q. Okay. So when, when does your father usually work?

8 A. Well, I mean, if you knew -- from what I've known is that  
9 it's not -- it's daily, I think. It's -- you know, Monday through  
10 Fridays you get a bus from here to there. And, you know, that's  
11 how it normally runs.

12 Q. So what time does he leave in the day?

13 A. It's very, it's very different. Obviously, you know, he's a  
14 one-man band.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. So everything -- he's got one bus. He would either leave  
17 Koreatown 7:30, 8:00, and then return --

18 Q. 7:30 in the morning or --

19 A. Afternoon.

20 Q. 7:30 in the afternoon?

21 A. P.M., yeah.

22 Q. Okay. And he'd come back about what time?

23 A. Well, it kind of depends. Obviously it's the next morning.  
24 So I want to say maybe 5 or 6, 7 maybe, 7 in the morning.

25 Q. Did you see him Saturday before he left?

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. And what time did he leave the house?

3 A. He left at 5.

4 Q. 5 p.m.?

5 A. 5 p.m.

6 Q. And what did he do before that?

7 A. Well, if I -- sorry. Saturdays we would normally, me and him  
8 and my mom, we would kind of catch up on the day. So we ate, and  
9 then he slept.

10 Q. Okay. What time did you eat?

11 A. So he came home at around, I want to say, 10, 11. That's  
12 from what I remember.

13 Q. That morning?

14 A. Yeah, that morning.

15 Q. Okay, he came in about 10, 11.

16 A. Yeah. And then we had a little meal that consisted of rice,  
17 broccoli and fish -- I'm sorry. I kind of know these questions.  
18 They were asked before.

19 Q. No. Absolutely. That's fine.

20 A. And then I want to say at around 12:30 he went to sleep. You  
21 know, he watched a little TV and then he went to sleep, you know.  
22 Obviously as a driver you got to keep up, you know, your sleep  
23 schedule. I understand a lot of people have like some sort --  
24 like they feel like he was tired that night. But based off of --  
25 and this is based off of what we've heard from people who were

1 there and even from like witnesses, I guess, he wasn't asleep, or  
2 he wasn't like fatigued or anything.

3 Q. Yeah.

4 A. Some people told us he was wide awake and, from just what  
5 we've heard, even after impact he was awake. He didn't have a  
6 heart attack.

7 Q. Okay. So let me ask you this, so you said he went to sleep  
8 about 12, 12:30.

9 A. 12:30.

10 Q. Did he sleep in his bedroom?

11 A. In a sense. It's a -- obviously it's a living room. He was  
12 just laying on the floor and, you know, he had a pillow and  
13 blanket.

14 Q. I'm guessing that's how he normally sleeps?

15 A. I guess, in a sense.

16 Q. Okay. And what time did he get up?

17 A. 4:45. I remember that's when I went outside and I told him  
18 4:45, it's time to go. And then, you know, then -- you know, in  
19 the morning you get a little --

20 Q. Yeah. Is that his normal, is that his normal sleep routine?  
21 Does he normally get in and then sleep -- sleep until late  
22 afternoon?

23 A. Yes. But at night as well, after he'd drop people off, he  
24 would obviously go straight to the bus and sleep. And this isn't  
25 something I'm telling you because I want you to, you know -- it's



1 because that's what witnesses and people who've gone with him have  
2 obviously told us, and he's obviously told us himself. But I  
3 think they would arrive at the casino at around 11, 12, and maybe  
4 that brief 20 minutes of just getting something to eat or coffee,  
5 but mainly he would go to sleep. Then he would have an alarm at  
6 around 3, 3:30 in the morning. And then he would, you know, wake  
7 up, get that coffee, and then bring it back. And then he would  
8 come the next morning and, you know, sleep.

9 Q. So when he sleeps, does he sleep hard? I mean, does he  
10 snore?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. You'd say kind of snores?

13 A. Yeah, I'm sorry.

14 Q. You'd know -- yeah.

15 A. Yeah, he, you know -- but it's mainly -- he does snore but I  
16 don't, I don't know how you would define a heavy sleeper. Because  
17 for that like -- if like a little thing wakes him up, I mean, it  
18 really depends.

19 Q. So does he -- let me ask you this. Does he take anything to  
20 get to sleep? Have you ever seen him take like --

21 A. No, no, no. No.

22 Q. No? Never?

23 A. He doesn't do drugs. If you've checked his medical whatever,  
24 you know, didn't drink, hated chocolate.

25 Q. Chocolate?

1 A. Oh, yeah. It's weird. He didn't have any, like -- he wasn't  
2 taking any pills or anything.

3 Q. So he doesn't take any medicine, anything like that?

4 A. No. Because at the time it wasn't like he was -- I mean, you  
5 know, he was chunky, but I don't think that was like anything to  
6 do with it. He didn't, he didn't take any medical --

7 Q. So no diabetes, no high blood pressure, nothing like that  
8 that you're aware of?

9 A. Not that I remember.

10 Q. Does he go to the doctor?

11 A. You know, he does his checkups, you know, whenever we got to  
12 do those paperworks, I think.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. He would -- obviously he never told us when he would do  
15 them --

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. -- but he would do checkups and --

18 Q. So when he goes to the doctor -- let's say he goes to the  
19 doctor and he needs a temporary medication, where does he go to --  
20 where does he get his prescriptions filled?

21 A. The thing is he's never had like medication like that. He's  
22 never had --

23 Q. No? I'm not talking about just ongoing. I'm just, like,  
24 nothing? So he's never had medication for anything?

25 A. No.

1 Q. How about you? Your mom, do you guys go to the pharmacy at  
2 all?

3 A. No.

4 Q. No? Okay.

5 A. We're very -- we believe in soups and home remedies. But  
6 obviously just soups like it's not -- sorry, I'm trying to be  
7 funny.

8 Q. No. No, no, no.

9 A. I'm just trying to -- I'm just everywhere at the moment.

10 Q. I understand. So when you guys -- when he drives a bus,  
11 these trips to the casinos, is that the only trip he does during  
12 the day? Does he have --

13 A. Like what do you mean, like --

14 Q. So let's say he drives -- he leaves at 7, 8 -- 7 p.m., drives  
15 to the casino, he comes back early morning.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Does he ever have a trip during the middle of the day?

18 A. Oh, no.

19 Q. No?

20 A. No, no.

21 Q. So this is the only --

22 A. This is -- he only does night. It was mainly just night  
23 tours. If there was ever a case, he would obviously hire a  
24 driver. But it's not like he's ever introduced me to a driver.  
25 So it's not like I could, you know, pick him out.

1 Q. Got you. And he doesn't have a job anywhere else?

2 A. No. It's always been this.

3 Q. Okay. How do you communicate with your father?

4 A. Either phone -- well, cell phone.

5 Q. Cell phone. And is he, is he -- does he text?

6 A. No, he's not --

7 Q. He's not a tech guy?

8 A. He's not a tech guy?

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. He got the iPhone because I got the iPhone and then he  
11 obviously wanted a better model.

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. But, no, he's not tech savvy, you know. It was just -- he  
14 was just my dad.

15 Q. Yeah.

16 MR. BRAGG: John, do you have any questions?

17 BY OFFICER ISBISTER:

18 Q. We know he used to have a bunch of busses.

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. Right? Has he been driving your whole life basically? I  
21 mean, do you know when he started driving or where he learned bus  
22 driving, anything like that?

23 A. I think -- it's been my whole life obviously.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. You know, I remember waking up -- no, not waking up. I'm

1 sorry. When I was little, you know, I never understood what he  
2 did until he finally sat down and he told me, yeah, I drove bus.  
3 And this was like when I was young, when I barely understood  
4 English. But as far as I'm concerned, he's been driving his whole  
5 -- not his whole life, but I want to say the better part of it up  
6 until now.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. He's experienced obviously.

9 Q. Yeah, that's what I'm getting --

10 A. Oh.

11 Q. He's been driving for a long time. Has he ever had any  
12 accidents that you know of?

13 A. I mean, DMV reports or whatever -- well, from what we've  
14 known, no.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And, I mean, accidents as in fender benders or accidents as  
17 in like this type of situation?

18 Q. Anything.

19 A. Because I only remember one instant in the past 18, 19 years  
20 that I've known him that he's actually hit anything, and it was  
21 just because a car was in front.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. And it wasn't on the road; it was more like parking the bus.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. So he didn't have any accidents --

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. -- as far as I'm concerned, no. I -- you know.

3 Q. Okay. That's fine. And so that was his routine pretty much  
4 every day is, he would, he would come home for breakfast, sleep  
5 during the day, get up late afternoon, pick up in Koreatown?

6 A. And even then he does, you know, get like maybe 1 hour more  
7 when he's there.

8 Q. Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

9 A. You know, after he parked the bus, you know.

10 Q. Oh, yeah.

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And then at night again after he'd park the bus, he would go  
14 to sleep.

15 Q. Okay. So that's --

16 A. That was his routine.

17 Q. But that was just his routine?

18 A. Yeah.

19 OFFICER ISBISTER: Okay. Medication -- I think that's  
20 everything.

21 BY MR. BRAGG:

22 Q. Do you have medical insurance?

23 A. Medical insurance, that's -- it's not Obamacare. It's  
24 Medicare. It's the one --

25 Q. Is it MediCal?

1 A. I think -- I know I have a card. I don't know if it's  
2 renewed. And the only reason I had it was because I had a, like  
3 an intense migraine; I didn't know what it was and that's when I  
4 was shipped into the hospital. But, I mean, other than that, I  
5 think that was the only -- for me. I'm not sure if my mom does.

6 Q. Who pays for your health insurance, do you know? Does your  
7 dad pay for it, or --

8 A. I think it was more like the government.

9 Q. Okay, okay.

10 A. Yeah. Because we're low income type of situation.

11 Q. What size shirt does your dad wear?

12 A. Last I checked it was double XL, but I think he's slimmed  
13 down to maybe XL.

14 Q. Okay. And he hadn't been complaining -- has he complained  
15 about feeling poorly recently?

16 A. Poorly as in?

17 Q. Healthwise, he hasn't been feeling poorly or --

18 A. Not that I know of. He never -- you know, always just kind  
19 of catching up. We talked about the election. I don't know.  
20 That's pretty funny, right? Yeah.

21 No, he never really complained about being too tired or too  
22 sleepy because normally, you know, he'd be well rested. And even  
23 up until then, he would -- yeah.

24 MR. BRAGG: Okay. Do you have any questions you want to ask?

25 MR. REYNOSO: Pass.

1           MR. BRAGG: Okay. I'm going to go ahead and close the  
2 interview. Thank you for talking with us, all right.

3           MR. VIDES: Not a problem.

4           (Whereupon, 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:            TOUR BUS COLLISION WITH SEMI-TRUCK  
                                 ON INTERSTATE 10 NEAR DESERT HOT  
                                 SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA ON  
                                 OCTOBER 23, 2016  
                                 Interview of Carlos Vides

DOCKET NUMBER:            HWY17MH005

PLACE:                      California

DATE:                        October 31, 2016

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.

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Elizabeth M. Cochran  
Transcriber