

DCA14FR005
Film Crew Struck by Freight Train
CSX Transportation
February 20, 2014

Interview Summary
First Assistant Director
With Interviewee Comments

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**Record of:** Interview Telephone Interview**Date:** June 25, 2014 **Location:** Los Angeles, California**Accident Information:**

February 20, 2014

Jesup, Georgia

DCA14FR005

Person Interviewed:

Hillary Schwartz

First Assistant Director

Also Present:

Matthew P. Stone

Attorney

The First Assistant Director reported the following information:

- There was a director's location scout on February 7, and she was at the location scout.
- Others present were the production manager, the director of photography, and the production designer.
- She stated that a Rayonier employee drove them onto the property and led them all onto the trestle.
- There were no trains on that day.
- On the day of the accident, there were three vans of cast and crew, and some others drove themselves to the location.
- The initial filming was shot to the side of the tracks.
- She was told that two trains would pass by, and she didn't remember who said this.
- They waited for the two trains to pass by.
- They started shooting on the trestle after the two trains passed by.
- An assistant alerted them that there was a train coming, and they moved to exit the tracks on the east side of the tracks.
- She and a few others made it off the tracks.
- She turned around and saw pieces of the bed flying around.
- She saw people crouched down on the trestle, and she saw the victim that was killed next to the train.
- An assistant yelled for someone to call 911, and she asked another assistant to make the call.
- Immediately after the accident, the Rayonier employee came running to the tracks, was very upset, and asked what was going on.
- They filmed for about one hour before moving onto the trestle.
- Before filming, she made a safety announcement about two trains that were expected to pass by.
- Two people were stationed on the road near the trestle to prevent people from entering the shot.
- Her impression was that all would be fine after the two trains had passed.
- The two trains blasted their horns as they went by.
- The arrival of the third train was surprising.
- She knew that the tracks belonged to CSX and that the location manager was working with CSX to obtain permission.
- She thought it was okay to film.
- An assistant to the location manager was the person who passed along the information about the two trains.
- When they were on the trestle, an actor asked how long it would take to clear if there was another train.

- An assistant to the location manager responded that it would take 60 seconds if coming from that same direction.
- She relayed this information to the rest of the crew along with an exit plan.
- The location manager forwarded an email from CSX to her, the production manager, and the writer/producer, the director/producer to ask what he should do about it.
- On February 20, they discussed this email at the studio.
- Some of the crew said that CSX could not support the filming.
- Some including the location manager interpreted that it was okay to film.
- She relied on the judgment of the location manager and the Rayonier employee because they seemed familiar with trains.

Interviewers:

Dana Sanzo

Investigator-in-Charge

Rick Narvell

Human Performance Investigator

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Matthew P. Stone
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October 14, 2014

By E-Mail Only

Ms. Dana Sanzo
National Transportation Safety Board

Re: Date of Accident : February 20, 2014
 Location of Accident : Jesup, Georgia
 Reference No. : DCA14FR005

Dear Dana:

I am writing in response to your offer to allow my clients to clarify or correct the summaries you provided. They request the changes below.

Randall Miller:

- The sentence beginning “There were a few briefings . . .” should state: “There were a few safety briefings prior to filming.”
- The sentence “Two of the camera crew on the tracks, and the two were able to get off the tracks” should be deleted.
- The sentence beginning “He fell down . . .” should state: “He fell down, and has been told that a still photographer pulled him off the tracks.” He does not remember being pulled off the tracks.

Jody Savin:

- The sentences beginning “On the day of the accident . . .” and “She was off to the side . . .” should be combined to state: “On the day of the accident, the writer/producer was off to the side of the tracks when the two trains came through.”

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- The words “and that two Rayonier guards were nearby” is not accurate and should be deleted.

Hillary Schwartz:

- The words “and locations manager” should be added at the end of the second sentence, beginning “Others present were”
- The sentence beginning “She was told that two trains . . .” should state: “She was told by the locations department assistant Stephanie Humphreys that two trains would pass by.”
- The sentence beginning “She and a few . . .” should state: “She and others made it off the tracks.”
- The sentence beginning “She saw people crouched . . .” should state: “She saw people crouched down next to the trestle and others holding onto the trestle; and after the train stopped, she saw the victim that was killed next to the train.”
- The sentence beginning “Immediately after the accident . . .” should state: “Immediately after the accident, the Rayonier employee who was on site but who had been standing off to the side, came running to the tracks, was very upset, and asked what was going on.”
- The words “and unexpected” should be added to the end of the sentence beginning “The arrival of”
- The following sentence should be added before the sentence “She thought it was okay to film”: “After the two trains passed, the assistant locations manager Stephanie Humphreys stated that no additional trains were expected.”
- The sentence beginning “When they were on the trestle . . .” should state: “When they were on the trestle, an actor asked how long they would have to clear the tracks if there was another train.”
- The sentence beginning “An assistant to the location manager . . .” should state: “An assistant to the location manager responded that it would take 60 seconds for a

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train to reach them; the assistant stated that if there was another train it would be coming from the same direction as the first two trains.”

- The sentence beginning “The location manager forwarded . . .” should state: “The location manager forwarded an email from CSX to her, the production manager, the production designer, the writer/producer, and the director/producer.”
- The sentence beginning “On February 20 . . .” should state: “On February 20, the locations manager Charley Baxter asked her about this email. She told Baxter to speak with the writer/producer and unit production manager.”
- The sentence beginning “Some of the crew said . . .” should state: “The email said that CSX could not support the filming.”
- The sentence beginning “Some including the location manager . . .” should state: “The location manager interpreted the email to mean that it was still okay to film.”
- The phrase words “and had been in contact with CSX” should be added to the end of the last sentence, beginning “She relied on the judgment . . .”

Thank you for providing the interviewed parties an opportunity to review and comment on the interview summaries. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about these changes.

Sincerely,

Matt

Matthew P. Stone

MPS/kef

cc: Kori E. Flake, Esq.
Ms. Hillary Schwartz (by e-mail)
Mr. Randall Miller (by e-mail)
Mrs. Jody Savin (by e-mail)