

**From:** Bunker, Bob - DIA  
**Sent:** Monday, January 05, 2009 10:57 AM  
**To:** Lee, Stephen - DIA  
**Subject:** CO 1404 - Possible Helpful Information

Steve,

Pursuant to our earlier conversation please find below a statement regarding some events my wife and I observed on the evening of December 20, 2008.

My wife Joyce and I were traveling northbound on E-470 just north of Pena and arrived at the E-470 Toll Plaza at 18:18L. This toll plaza is located almost exactly due west of the threshold of Runway 34R approximately 3 miles. I remember the time because I had looked at the clock in my truck as we arrived at the Toll Plaza; it was 18:18L. We were due at a Christmas party at 18:30L in Thornton and I was concerned we were going to be late. I have driven this section of road for many years so I am very familiar with it.

The first thing I noticed when we arrived at the plaza was the wind. The wind was blowing the Christmas decorations around quite a bit and I even commented to my wife about it. It was nothing significant at this point, but noticeable. As I pulled out of the toll plaza and accelerated to highway speed an extremely large gust of wind came out of the north east. I was concerned at the time that the gust was literally going to blow my F-250 4x4 crew cab pickup off the road (and commented accordingly to my wife). I was having to steer my truck into the wind to counter the direction it was trying to push us.

We discussed the unusual wind gusts for a couple minutes. At one point I commented to her about how the side window deflectors on our windows were bending. These deflectors are quite rigid and I had never seen the wind bend them before. The reason I noticed the deflectors was my wife had lit a cigarette just as we pulled out of the toll plaza and cracked the passenger side window open. The wind was blowing so hard she just put the cigarette out because of the wind coming in the window.

The wind gust lasted for probably 2-3 minutes and ended just as abruptly as it started. Our location by this time was just north of 104<sup>th</sup> Ave. Were I to guess I would estimate the wind speed to be well in excess of 50mph. I'm sure if someone was inclined we could create a test to determine what actual wind speed it would take to bend these side window deflectors. The other thing I noticed was a fairly large temperature increase right when the wind stopped. The outside temperature gauge in the truck had been reading just above zero at the toll plaza and when the wind stopped the outside temperature was 20.

We live out in the country on the eastern plains by Strasburg so driving in very gusty wind conditions is common for us. What we experienced on the 20<sup>th</sup> on E-470 was not one of these common experiences.

As I noted on the phone, I don't know if this information is helpful, but I thought I would share it just in case it is meaningful. Hopefully it will help someone.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Bunker  
Program Manager  
Telecommunication Systems  
Denver International Airport

