

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

December 27, 2016

Personal Electronic Device

Specialist's Factual Report By Jane Foster

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: Hoboken, NJ
Date: September 29, 2016
Aircraft: Locomotive
Registration: 4214
Operator: NJ Transit
NTSB Number: DCA16MR011

On Thursday, September 29, 2016, about 8:38 a.m. EDT, a New Jersey Transit Train (No. 1614), with over 250 passengers on board, failed to stop and struck a bumping post at Hoboken station. The train continued onto the platform (an area where passengers were waiting for trains) and struck a passenger in the waiting area. The accident resulted in one fatality and over 100 injuries.

2. GROUP

A group was not convened.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received the following personal electronic device (PED):

Device Manufacturer/Model:	LG Cell Phone
Serial Number:	207CYTB0520489

3.1. Device Description

PEDs are a category of devices comprised primarily of portable computing devices and mobile phones. Portable computing devices are typically capable of internet access, email, messaging services, and can run user-installed applications to perform specific tasks. Depending on the model, mobile phones can perform many of the same tasks as portable computing devices, plus have voice call and text messaging capabilities. PED

user and system data is typically stored on non-volatile memory¹ and can be accessed through manufacturer-provided interfaces.

3.2. Data Recovery

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an examination revealed the unit had not sustained any damage and information was extracted using forensic laboratory software. Figures 1 and 2 show the front and back of the phone as received.

Figure 1. Front of LG Cell Phone as received.



Figure 2. Back of LG Cell Phone as received.



¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.

4. DEVICE INVESTIGATION

4.1. LG Cell Phone

No accident pertinent information was recovered from the device. No text message, multimedia message, photograph, video, or call history took place during the accident trip on September 29, 2016. The phone does not have Wi-Fi capabilities.