

**Record of Conversations – Parkridge Hospital
RRD18MR003**

On the afternoon of February 6, 2018 NTSB Chief Medical Officer Mary Pat McKay spoke by telephone with Jerry Palmer who was the Administrator on duty at Parkridge Hospital on the night of the train collision. (Reached through the hospital operator at 803-907-7000.)

This is a three year old, 68 bed, community hospital with 18 beds in the ED. They were the farthest hospital involved in the MCI and at the time the event occurred they had 28 patients in the ED including 10 boarding because of the influenza epidemic. They were told they were getting 3 patients but 10 arrived. They were initially overwhelmed and had to go on diversion but because the patients were not severely injured they were able to move them through the system pretty quickly. Disposition after discharge was more complicated. The first Amtrak team wasn't really helpful with this but the people who showed up a little later were more helpful. Biggest issue was people who had short term mobility issues; getting them canes (1) and a wheelchair (different patient) was eventually accomplished by Amtrak. They used UBER to transport the discharged back to the shelter point.

Overall, about 50 staff were called in/carried over to cope with the incident, many of them in management. A temporary tele unit was opened but the last patient left the hospital by 5pm and they stood down staff as quickly as they could.