



## **SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT 2**

### **Victim Interviews and Statements**

**Chattanooga, Tennessee**

**HWY15MH009**

(34 pages)

**Interview of Chevrolet Uplander Passenger and Driver**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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COOL RUNNINGS EXPRESS, INC.

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MOTOR CARRIER CRASH

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CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE,

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JUNE 25, 2015

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Docket No.: HWY-15-MH-009

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Telephonic Interview of: Chevy Passenger and  
Chevy Driver

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: Inv. 1  
Survival Factors Investigator

APPEARANCES:

Inv. 1, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N T E R V I E W

INTERVIEW OF Chevy Passenger

CHEVY PASSENGER: I mean, we seen all the signs and it said, you know, roads -- I think he said it said road construction so many -- half a mile or a mile or whatever, you know, and merge from the left lane over because the left lane was closed.

BY INV. 1:

Q. Okay. And, and how fast was -- right before the accident, how fast was traffic moving?

A. That I'm going to have to ask him because, there again, I told you, I was kind of looking at my phone, being preoccupied. He just walked through the door.

Q. Okay.

A. But I was a little preoccupied, so -- but he had -- I mean, at the time right before that, I guess, traffic was moving fine.

Q. Okay.

A. You know, whatever the speed limit was. And when he saw that, he moved over and -- because it had told him to watch for sudden stops, could be a whatever, you know. So he had started

just slowing down, not all, but -- and I think when he came over, he said something about a little hill (indiscernible) that he could tell where the traffic was just almost at a stop. So he just went ahead and just kind of sat right in with them and just pretty much stopped. I mean, I think we was going 5 miles an hour, something like that. You know, go a little bit, kind of stop, go a little bit and stop.

Q. Okay.

A. And that was at the point where we were at.

Q. Okay.

A. And he just happened to hear some noise and racket, and when he looked up in his mirror, he could see all of the traffic behind -- the cars behind us just coming toward us. And he made the comment, we're fixing to get hit. And when he said that, one of the -- something hit us, you know. And then after that, it was just -- it was over with then, you know.

Q. Yeah. And did you guys suffer any injuries during the crash?

A. He hurt his back and his legs. Nothing was broken. Hurt his back, leg; he had some cuts, scrape, bruised kidney, stuff like that. Time will tell --

Q. Which leg got hurt?

A. I'm sorry, what?

Q. Which leg of his got hurt?

CHEVY DRIVER: The right leg's worse.

CHEVY PASSENGER: The right leg is. Both of them got bruised up, but the right leg is the worst.

BY INV. 1:

Q. Okay. And was it just bruises and stuff or were there cuts or anything like that?

A. He had a few cuts, but mainly, you know, bruises --

CHEVY DRIVER: (Indiscernible)

CHEVY PASSENGER: Yeah.

BY INV. 1:

Q. Okay. And so he had a injured back, bruised up legs, more on the right. Any head injuries or anything like that?

A. He had some small incisions on his head and it looked like it was -- you know, of course it's going to bleed worse than, you know, but they weren't bad. It just looked worse because of the blood, but --

Q. Uh-huh. And did you suffer any injuries?

A. Mine was my bruised ribs up in there, all down my left side, and all --

Q. Um-hum.

A. -- on like --

Q. And do you know what caused -- do you think -- what do you think caused that from, because you were the -- in the

passenger seat. So maybe hitting the center console or something, or do you know what --

A. Yeah, I mean, again, I mean, some of it could have been from the seatbelt or stuff just flying in our car too. Our airbags did not deploy.

Q. Right. And --

A. With all of this going on, you know, I don't know if that would have helped or not helped, you know, from -- but --

Q. Right. Now, and you guys were both wearing your seatbelts?

A. Yes, we were both wearing our seatbelts. And then like the back of our seats, the front seat that we were in, the back broke. So I'm sure that just pushed us even more up into the dash, you know.

Q. The -- what did you say broke? The seat back?

A. The -- yeah, the back of the seats that we were in.

Q. Uh-huh. Right. It broke when you got pushed -- from the rear impact, it push you backwards?

A. Yeah.

Q. Yeah, okay. Yeah, we noticed that the airbags didn't deploy in your vehicle and in fact we're looking into that now. We're working with General Motors to analyze the vehicle and see -- in many cases where there's multiple impacts to the vehicle, it may -- you know, the computer algorithms may turn off the airbags after the first impact if it -- because they would not have deployed in a rear impact. And then depending on how much time there is between the other impacts, the computer algorithms can turn off the airbags in order to make sure that the bags don't deploy at a bad time. So it's not necessarily -- you know, I don't want you to come away with the conclusion that it's incorrect that the airbags did not deploy. We're just not sure at this point and we will -- we are investigating that.

A. Okay.

Q. Do you know -- excuse me. Do you remember how much -- was there an appreciable amount of time or did you notice any amount of time between the first impact at the rear of the vehicle and then at the -- the front impact?

A. I --

Q. Like, did you -- remember sliding and then hitting something else, or --

A. I don't, but I'm going to tell you, my husband's sitting right here. He just walked -- I'm going to let him because he was actually watching everything.

Q. Okay.

A. Because like I said, I -- and it just kind of happened and I don't -- but let me let him answer that question for you.

Q. Okay. Before you put him on, let me just verify. So

you are Chevy Passenger, right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And how old are you?

A. Fifty-five.

Q. Okay. And do you mind giving me your height and weight?

A. What, 5'2, 5'3; 160.

Q. Okay. Yeah, and did you notice anything on the seatbelt after the crash? Did the seatbelt -- was it locked up or did it just function like a normal seatbelt? Did you notice anything?

A. Now that I couldn't tell you. All I do -- all I remember on that part is, is hitting the button a couple times trying to get out, because he had made the comment that it was on fire or something about a fire; get out, it's on fire or something. And I know, I remember hitting it a couple of times.

Q. Um-hum.

A. And then I guess it gave loose and I got out.

Q. And then, and then when -- and then did you just -- a paramedic approached you and asked if you were okay and decided to put you in an ambulance, or how did you end up being transported to the hospital?

A. We went by ambulance.

Q. Okay. Anything remarkable there? Did you -- any problems with -- or did they give you good treatment? Anything, any --

A. Oh, yeah. They were super nice.

Q. Um-hum. Okay. Did you both go in the same ambulance?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And did they put you on a stretcher and things or put like a collar on your neck and stuff, or did they just have you sit in the ambulance?

A. No, they put us on a stretcher.

Q. Okay. And they put collars around your necks and stuff?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Okay. Well, thanks a lot, [REDACTED] Yeah, if you can, put your husband on and I'll ask him a couple questions.

A. Okay.

CHEVY DRIVER: Hello?

INV. 1: Hi. This is Chevy Driver, right?

CHEVY DRIVER: Yes, sir.

INV. 1: Hi, Chevy Driver. My name is Inv. 1. I'm an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board. You know, we are a federal agency that -- we're most well known for our -- for the airplane crashes that we investigate, but we also investigate some larger major highway accidents and train accidents and things like that. And so we're working to investigate this accident and our objectives in the investigation is to improve traffic safety.

So we investigate the accident, we do quite a thorough investigation, and then we -- it'll take about a year before we publish our final report. But we publish a final report, we make that available to the public, and then we make recommendations that we -- whatever recommendations we can to try to improve safety.

So, if you're interested, I'd like to ask you a couple of questions about your experience during the crash.

CHEVY DRIVER: Okay.

INV. 1: And do you have any questions for me up front?

CHEVY DRIVER: No, not really.

INTERVIEW OF Chevy Driver

BY INV. 1:

Q. Okay. So one question was, when did -- how fast was -- do you remember how fast traffic was moving and what do you remember, like what was the first instance that you realized that something was wrong?

A. I heard some racket in the back behind us. I heard -- yeah, I heard -- it sounded like something came off a trailer. I thought maybe somebody had lost a load of steel or something off a trailer and I heard some racket behind us. And when I heard that noise, I looked in my rearview -- my side, my side door mirror. And when I looked in my mirror, all I could see was cars being pushed my way.

Q. Okay. And what --

A. And --

Q. How fast was traffic going when you got hit or right before you got hit? Was it like stop and go or was it rolling along?

A. No, it was more like stop and go. We had just got there at the bridge where it was -- where the left lane was closed, and it -- the left lane was closed just a few cars in front of us. We had done moved over before that so we was just kind of creeping along here and there 4 or 5 miles an hour.

Q. Okay. And then so you saw some vehicles getting hit behind you and --

A. I -- yeah, I seen, I seen it coming and all I could tell my wife was we're fixing to get hit. And soon as I said hit, we were hit. I couldn't even turn around to, you know, even look straight up to see what was in front of me. When I said hit, it hit.

Q. Um-hum. And you don't happen to remember like which vehicle hit you or which vehicles you hit?

A. I couldn't tell you. It happened so quick.

Q. Right, right. Okay. All right, and --

A. Yeah, I know there was a pickup in front of us that, well, that was beside us when we stopped.

Q. What --

A. Was that the one I hit, I couldn't tell you.

Q. What color was that pickup?

A. It was a kind of a burgundy.

Q. Okay. Yeah, I know which one you're talking about. Because there was a black pickup and a red pickup, so it must have been the red one. And so when you --

A. No, we was closer -- we were closer to the red one. It was beside us. I want to say we were probably the last two that got hit.

Q. Yep. And was that red pickup to the right of you or to the left of you after you stopped?

A. I couldn't tell you that either. I just think -- all I can tell you is it was beside us when we got through.

Q. Okay. Okay. Okay.

A. Because when it hit us from behind, it threw us back. And when it threw us back, as soon as it -- as soon as the seat broke, we hit -- we was into the next vehicle.

Q. Okay. So it felt like a short time duration between the first and second hit?

A. Oh, yeah. Hey, look, it -- I betcha the whole thing didn't last probably 6 seconds.

Q. Uh-huh. Okay.

A. It seemed like it was longer than that, but it didn't take long. Once it hit, that was it.

Q. Right. Okay. And your wife described a little bit about your injuries. You said you had some bruising on your legs, especially on your right leg, I think it was. Is that right?

A. My right leg, yeah. It still swells -- it swells up a lot and it, you know, it really -- it hasn't gone down a whole lot, but it goes down -- at nighttime, it goes down a little bit more if I stay off of it some, but -- and I've had --

Q. Is that your lower leg or upper leg?

A. It's my shins, from the knee down --

Q. Okay.

A. -- down to my ankle. My -- even my ankles and my feet swell.

Q. Okay. What other injuries did you suffer?

A. My left shin, it's the same way, it's just not near as bad.

Q. Um-hum.

A. My left elbow and my arm, all up and down my arm, it's probably two-thirds purple.

Q. Your left arm?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay. And then --

A. And I've got a couple other bruises on the other one,

but the -- my ribs on and my whole side on my right side is bruised up pretty good.

Q. Okay. And then anything on your head, neck?

A. I -- my neck and shoulders is real tender. I can push my neck a little bit and it just real tender. It's eased up a little bit, but it's still tender. My left shoulder was hurting me a little bit a couple days ago. It still hurts, but not like it was.

Q. Right. Okay.

A. I got a small, just a small cut in the top of my head. I don't know how that happened, but I had a small incision. It wasn't bad enough to have no stitches or nothing like that.

Q. Okay.

A. Don't know where that come from, but when the back, when the back of the seat broke, I mean, it basically -- I felt like I was just seeing nothing but the rooftop.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. And it -- at one time it felt like we was up off the ground.

Q. Okay. Do you mean during the --

A. I know it --

Q. -- during the accident sequence, you mean? Like --

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay.

A. And I was told, and I don't know if this is true, but when the back breaks on one of these seats, that it gives you slack in between the seatbelt, which kind of -- it gives you room to -- it could throw you a little bit. And the seatbelt was catching us, but I guess that's where the bruises would probably come from. Of course, we had stuff in the back end of the van that come forward.

Q. Um-hum.

A. That didn't help.

Q. Right. And the -- so you were wearing your seatbelt, and after the crash, did you have any trouble getting your seatbelt off or did the seatbelt act like a normal seatbelt or was it locked up into place?

A. The seatbelt really wasn't that bad. Like she said, you know, I probably had to hit it a couple times, but, you know -- I seen fire in my right, the right corner of my eye, and when I seen that fire, I was just panicking and trying to get out.

Q. Uh-huh. Okay.

A. I got the -- I finally got the seat out and then I -- the, you know, the steering wheel had done -- it, I guess, bent down to me and I was trying to get the seat because my legs were kind of hemmed a little bit. But I finally got the steering wheel up. I don't know if I hit the tilt on it or if I just pushed it



up and it broke or what, but I got -- I was just trying to get out.

Q. Right.

A. Because my first thought was there's a fire. A car done blew up and it was popping, and fuel and stuff was everywhere and we was just trying to get out of the car.

Q. Okay.

A. And somebody beside helped us get out -- helped me get out, and I hollered at him, I said, help me get my wife. Because she had done got -- you know, she was kind of out of it and she sat down, and I don't know what she was sitting in, whether it was diesel or gas or what, but we just -- we was trying to get away. And somebody helped us get over to the middle of the median there against the concrete wall.

Q. Okay. And then at what point did a first responder come up to you?

A. To be honest, I couldn't tell you how long, but it didn't seem like it was a long time. Probably within 4 or 5 minutes.

Q. Uh-huh. And then were they --

A. They were -- they seemed to have responded pretty good, but like I said, we're all in, you know, in kind of a panic mode just trying and --

Q. Um-hum.

A. -- trying to understand how this happened so quick.

Q. Right. And then did a --

A. It looked like it was more than nine cars that was hit, but I guess other cars had veered off the edge of the road and they were all pointed different ways that didn't get hit, but --

Q. Right. And so then was it a firefighter or a paramedic that first checked on you, and how did they get you to an ambulance?

A. It was the fire -- the fire department was there first. The fire department was there. They were the ones that come up and checked on us. First thing they did was put the neck braces on, on both of us. And then they put the boards under -- put us on the boards. And it wasn't long after that, the ambulances were there.

Q. Uh-huh. And so they put you on a board in -- right there on, just in the -- near the median of the highway. Did they have a stretcher there for you or did they just put you on a board on the ground?

A. They put us on a board on the ground and then when the ambulance got there, they brought a stretcher over and rolled us; picked us up, put it on --

Q. Okay.

A. -- put us on it and rolled. We was probably on the

board probably a minute or two before the stretchers --

Q. Um-hum. Okay.

A. -- before they hauled us off to the ambulance. And we both were -- me and my wife both rode in the same ambulance.

Q. Do you remember, which hospital did they take you to?

A. I'm going to be honest, my wife took care of the paperwork on it, but I want to say it was called Memorial.

Q. What Memorial? I'm sorry, I don't -- I'm not familiar with the --

A. Just Memorial is all I know of.

Q. Memorial, okay. Oh, called Memorial. Okay. Okay.

A. Yeah. The hospital was called Memorial.

Q. Okay. Okay.

A. I know it was a little bit farther away because they was taking more serious people to the closer one.

CHEVY PASSENGER: The name is Memorial Healthcare. It's two locations, but we went to --

BY INV. 1:

Q. Okay. And how long do you guys spend in the hospital before they -- you were treated and released, right? They didn't admit you to the hospital?

A. About 3 --

CHEVY PASSENGER: About 3.

CHEVY DRIVER: -- that night.

BY INV. 1:

Q. Till about 3 in the morning?

A. Next morning.

Q. Okay. Okay.

A. We stayed in the ER, though.

Q. Um-hum. Okay. Let me think if there's anything else I need to ask you. Did -- I can't think of anything off the top of my head. Is there anything else maybe, you know, remarkable that I didn't talk to you about?

Oh, did you see any -- besides the one vehicle that was on fire, did you see any other -- any other fire or besides the --

A. No.

Q. -- the one vehicle that was on fire? Okay.

A. Um-hum. The tractor trailer semi, he passed us with a car up under the front of his truck.

Q. Um-hum.

A. He surpassed us all the way in the left-hand lane.

Q. Right. And you said you saw the --

A. Which is what he should have (indiscernible) with. He should have hit that left lane and took the brick wall.

Q. Yeah, yeah. And then -- so you said that when you're in the car, out of the corner of your right eye, you saw the burning vehicle. So your vehicle was like ahead of and to the left of the

burning vehicle?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay.

A. Yeah, that car got hit before -- it got hit and blew up before we did.

Q. Right. Okay. Okay, well, I think that's all the questions I have for you. Are you -- do you have any other questions for me or anything else that you think might be important that I didn't ask you about?

A. No. But could you give me your name and number so if I have any?

Q. Absolutely.

(Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

#### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

#### NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: COOL RUNNINGS EXPRESS, INC.  
MOTOR CARRIER CRASH  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE,  
JUNE 25, 2015  
Telephonic Interview of Chevy Passenger  
and Chevy Driver

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY-15-MH-009

PLACE:

DATE:

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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Transcriber

**Interview of the Cadillac Driver**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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COOL RUNNINGS EXPRESS, INC.  
MOTOR CARRIER CRASH  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE,  
JUNE 25, 2015

Docket No.: HWY-15-MH-009

\* \* \* \* \*

Interview of: Cadillac Driver

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: Inv. 1  
Survival Factors Investigator

APPEARANCES:

Inv. 1, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N T E R V I E W

CADILLAC DRIVER: -- using the telephone once you --  
left hand.

INV. 1: Yeah.

CADILLAC DRIVER: With a touchscreen and such -- oh,  
it's got to be touchy.

INTERVIEW OF CADILLAC DRIVER

BY INV. 1:

Q. So what's your name?

A. Cadillac Driver.

Q. Cadillac Driver. And how old are you?

A. Sixty.

Q. Okay. And you were driving the Cadillac?

A. Yes.

Q. What's the first thing you remember that was not  
correct; you know, when you first realized something wasn't right?

A. When I came to in the hospital.

Q. Okay. And so you don't remember anything about previous  
to the accident, like what traffic was doing, where you were at in  
the highway?

A. No. Actually, I was coming back from Atlanta. I had  
been to a meeting down there. And the last memory I have is

walking out of the hotel, looking for my -- I knew where my car was.

Q. Right.

A. I was looking at it, walking, walking to it. And I remember looking at it, walking to it, and then the next thing I knew, I was in Erlanger and the nurse, trauma nurse,-- she's married to a guy that used to wrestle with my son at UTC.

Q. Um-hum.

A. And she was there and my son came in.

Q. Wow.

A. And they were doing -- I think they were doing or had done a CAT scan.

Q. Right.

A. And everything was pretty foggy after that. I got out the next morning or afternoon and they drove me home. But actually this is the first time I've ridden in a car, coming back down here since then.

Q. Oh, yeah?

A. But, you know, it's foggy -- concussion, but it gets -- it's been getting better every day and my neck is like a whole lot better than it was. But sometimes I turn the wrong way and it --

Q. Um-hum.

A. -- catches my attention.

Q. Any other injuries besides your head and neck?

A. No, I mean, I have some nasty looking bruises, but oddly enough, they don't hurt.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. And then I got a little bit right here.

Q. Concentrated on one side or the other? Mostly on your knees, bruises on your knees or scrapes on your knees?

A. Yeah, that's been -- that doesn't really hurt. And what -- the injuries that really have my attention is my head and my neck.

Q. Right.

A. And my neck, like I said, this time yesterday, it hurt to move it a inch either way.

Q. Right.

A. Today, I could -- I feel that, but I can do it.

Q. Yeah.

A. And like when I get out of the shower, I noticed -- I was drying my hair with a towel and I started doing it real fast and it like rattled. I said, whoa, I can't do --

Q. Yeah.

A. I don't think I'd want to get slapped in back of the head right now.

Q. So you don't recall anything about after the accident

happened, how they put you into an ambulance or anything, or and --

A. No.

Q. -- how you got out of the car, nothing like that?

A. Absolutely -- I have no recollection. And I called my wife from the accident scene there. Somehow I got -- I was on the phone with her, because I found out later I was refusing medical attention.

Q. Um-hum.

A. Which is crazy. And but I don't remember any of those conversations. Because she said I talked to her a couple times and she could tell something was wrong because I kept --

Q. Right.

A. -- saying the same thing over and over.

Q. Hmm. Okay.

A. And, and then my son came down and he said he didn't realize how serious a accident it was till he got down there.

Q. Right.

A. Because I called him, told him that I'd been in a wreck, I guess.

Q. Yeah.

A. So he -- yeah, I mean, it's like --

Q. Yeah.

A. -- I don't remember anything. I mean, it's --

Q. Yeah. Okay. Well, that makes it pretty simple.

A. Yeah, I know, I mean, I remember walking out of the hotel in Atlanta by the airport and looking in the vehicle, and then I was in Erlanger.

Q. Um-hum.

A. It's odd to have no memory driving up through north Georgia or anything.

Q. Right.

A. But -- yeah, and I --

Q. Do you always wear your seatbelt?

A. Yeah. Always do.

Q. Okay.

A. I mean, I'm always -- I always do. I always tell my kids -- I'm always getting on my kids because they don't have their seatbelt on.

Q. Yeah. Okay. Well then, is there anything that -- yeah, anything you can think of that I forgot to ask or anything -- obviously there's --

A. No, let's see. I don't remember the ambulance ride, which I've never ridden in the back of an ambulance.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. And I wish -- I don't remember any of that.

Q. Wish you could remember it?

A. I don't remember that. I don't remember going in the hospital. Like I said, I just remember my son, Cadillac Driver, and [REDACTED], the trauma nurse.

Q. Yep.

A. And I don't have -- I don't have really any idea if I've been there a couple hours. I need to ask --

Q. Yeah.

A. -- her how long I've been in the hospital.

Q. Okay. Well, I'm going to stop the notes.

A. Okay.

(Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

#### CERTIFICATE

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IN THE MATTER OF: COOL RUNNINGS EXPRESS, INC.  
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Interview of Cadillac Driver

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY-15-MH-009

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Transcriber

**Interview of Ford F150 Driver**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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COOL RUNNINGS EXPRESS, INC.  
MOTOR CARRIER CRASH  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE,  
JUNE 25, 2015

Docket No.: HWY-15-MH-009

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Interview of: Ford 150 Driver

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice.

BEFORE: Inv. 1

Survival Factors Investigator

APPEARANCES:

Inv. 1, Survival Factors Investigator  
National Transportation Safety Board

I N T E R V I E W

INTERVIEW OF FORD F150 DRIVER

BY INV. 1:

Q. Okay. So your name is Ford F150 Driver?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And what's your date of birth?

A. xxxxxxxx.

Q. Okay. And you were driving the --

A. Maroon F-150.

Q. So was that a brand new truck?

A. No, it was an '01.

Q. '01, okay. Some of the other vehicles were brand new.

A. It only had 115,000 miles on it.

Q. Oh, really?

A. My grandfather had taken care of it.

Q. When do you remember the first thing -- what's the first thing that you remember going wrong?

A. Well, this is kind of a personal choice, but I -- I missed -- I was thinking of whether or not I wanted to go the back way because I knew they had the construction or if I just wanted to stay on the interstate. Well, I passed the Ooltewah exit. I was like, well, the traffic's moving, so I figure everything will be okay. And I sat there for just a little bit and I happened to



look back in the rearview mirror. And I don't know, it looked like a truck or something was just like barreling down. And at that point I guess I blacked out when we had the -- when it got hit.

I woke up in the back of the ambulance. They're trying to put a C-collar on me and everything, and I was kind of freaking out because I didn't know what was going on. And then --

Q. Do you remember what lane you were in when you were driving?

A. I'm pretty sure I was closer to the wall.

Q. Okay. To the center wall?

A. Yeah, the center wall.

Q. Okay. And so you -- you looked in your rearview mirror, saw a big truck barreling down, and then you just woke up in the ambulance?

A. Um-hum. I guess right after we -- I had gotten hit.

Q. Okay.

A. But I don't remember anything about the accident itself.

Q. Uh-huh. And what were they -- how were -- what were they doing with you there? They were putting a C-spine on you?

A. Doing IVs, stuff like that, trying to calm me down because I had no idea what was going on.

Q. Um-hum.

A. Not every day you wake up and they tell you, hey, you're in the back of an ambulance; you've been in a car crash.

Q. That's got to be pretty scary.

And so then what do you remember next?

A. I remember coming to the ER, sitting in the ER all night because they didn't have a room or anything. And then I had -- I guess I had surgery yesterday.

Q. So when you got to the ER, they unloaded you from the ambulance, brought you into the ER, and you -- what, did they put you in like a little holding room or did --

A. No, I went straight into the trauma, trauma room.

Q. The trauma bay?

A. Yeah.

Q. So you were brought to a trauma bay and did they -- and then you were waiting. So when you were saying you were waiting all night, you meant waiting for surgery to begin or just --

A. Yeah, about -- after the trauma, I was -- it was probably -- I sat down there for about -- 10:00. Then they said, hey, you're going to have surgery in the morning. So I just end -- they didn't have any rooms here, so I just ended up staying down in the ER last night.

Q. Okay. I see what you're saying.

A. But, yeah, I had a pretty bad fractured elbow.

Q. And so the surgery was on your elbow or your --

A. Yeah.

Q. Um-hum.

A. They went in and I guess put some plates and bolts and stuff in there.

Q. Your left elbow. And what other injuries did you sustain?

A. I've got a third-degree burn on my heel and I don't know how I got it.

Q. On your left heel?

A. Yeah. I -- we just can't figure out how I ended up with it.

Q. Huh. Okay. Yeah, they -- I'll -- when I -- I'm going to go take a look at your truck and I'll see if I can find anything there.

A. If you happen to find my keys and my phone, I would appreciate it.

Q. Okay. Yep. The police department -- I'll double-check with those guys, but they'll -- they're -- they'll put it into evidence.

A. Okay.

Q. And they'll get -- somebody will be contacting you soon. I'm sure they, they'll find that stuff.

A. All right.

Q. Okay. So then you were treated at the hospital. And any other injuries besides your elbow and your heel?

A. My hand, I got a nice little cut on my hand.

Q. Um-hum.

A. I got a couple, well --

Q. Cuts and scrapes in your right hand.

A. -- staples in my neck -- well, in my, back of my head.

Q. Cuts on your -- back of your head?

A. Well, yeah, some staples that they put in there. And then my hand got all chewed up. And other than that, I'm just sore.

Q. Um-hum. And so do you remember -- you don't remember anything about how the injuries happened or anything like that, obviously?

A. Can you kind of elaborate what exactly happened yesterday? Do you guys have an idea?

Q. I haven't -- we will parse all that out.

A. Um-hum.

Q. I haven't seen a whole lot of it, a lot of the evidence yet. You know, we're just still starting the, just starting the investigation.

But so that's -- I think that's really all the questions I had for you. I'm going to stop the tape because --

A. Yeah, I know it wasn't a whole lot.

Q. Oh, that's okay.  
INV. 1: Figure out how to stop this thing. There we  
go.  
(Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: COOL RUNNINGS EXPRESS, INC.  
MOTOR CARRIER CRASH  
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE,  
JUNE 25, 2015  
Interview of Ford F150 Driver

DOCKET NUMBER: HWY-15-MH-009  
PLACE:  
DATE:

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Transcriber

# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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LOCAL AGENCY USE

REFERENCE NUMBER

REPORTING AGENCY

1 ☐ THP 3 ☐ SO  
2 ☒ CPD 4 ☐ OTHER

NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY

CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY:

HAMILTON

CODE

3 3

DATE OF ACCIDENT

MO. DAY YR.  
6 25 15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME

D.O.B.

SEX:

RACE:

ADDRESS

HOME PHONE

WORK PHONE

CIRCLE ONE:

DRIVER

PASSENGER

PEDESTRIAN HIT

WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

CDC class DA

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

ky D.L.

EXP

I seen brake lights tried to stop +  
couldn't hit brakes + couldn't stop

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR

# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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1 ☐ IHP 3 ☐ SO  
2 ☐ CPD 4 ☐ OTHER

NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY

CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY:

HAMILTON

CODE

3 3

DATE OF ACCIDENT

MO. DAY YR.  
6 25 15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME:

ADDRESS:

WORK PHONE:

CIRCLE ONE:

DRIVER

PASSENGER

PEDESTRIAN HIT

WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

i was lying in back seat a  
sudden stop threw me  
from sleep

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR

# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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REFERENCE NUMBER

15-06483

REPORTING AGENCY  
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 2 ☐ CPD 4 ☐ OTHER

NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY

CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY:

HAMILTON

CODE

3 3

DATE OF ACCIDENT

MO. DAY YR.  
 6 25 15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME

SEX:

RACE:

M white

ADDR

PHONE

WORK PHONE:

CIRCLE ONE:

DRIVER

PASSENGER

PEDESTRIAN HIT

WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

white work van smc

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

Big rig failed to stop and plowed through everyone

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR

# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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REFERENCE NUMBER

15-062183

REPORTING AGENCY  
1 ☐ THP 3 ☐ SO  
2 ☒ CPD 4 ☐ OTHER

NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY  
CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY:  
HAMILTON

CODE  
3 3

DATE OF ACCIDENT  
MO. DAY YR.  
6 25 15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME: [REDACTED] D.O.B. [REDACTED] SEX: M RACE: W

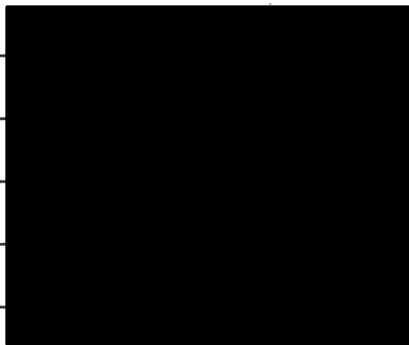
ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE [REDACTED]

WORK PHONE: [REDACTED]

CIRCLE ONE: DRIVER PASSENGER PEDESTRIAN HIT WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED: Riding in van. Large semi-truck plowed through several cars striking us from behind. Other car struck us when stopped.



SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR



# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY

COUNTY:

CODE

DATE OF ACCIDENT

1 ☐ THP 3 ☐ SO  
2 ☐ CPD 4 ☐ OTHER

CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

HAMILTON

3 3

MO. DAY YR.  
6 25 15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME: [REDACTED] D.O.B.: [REDACTED] SEX: m RACE: W

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]

WORK PHONE:

CIRCLE ONE: DRIVER PASSENGER PEDESTRIAN HIT WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

TOYOTA TUNDRA

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

CARS FROM BEHIND HIT ME, @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @ @

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR



# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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REPORTING AGENCY 1 <input type="checkbox"/> THP 3 <input type="checkbox"/> SO 2 <input type="checkbox"/> CPD 4 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT		COUNTY: HAMILTON	CODE 3 3
				DATE OF ACCIDENT MO. 6 DAY 25 YR. 15	

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME: [REDACTED] D.O.B.: [REDACTED] SEX: M RACE: W

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]

WORK PHONE: [REDACTED]

CIRCLE ONE: DRIVER PASSENGER PEDESTRIAN HIT WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

Traffic was moving moving North Bound at approx 75-80 mph. As Traffic began to slow & stop due to Road Construction Case & Trucks began crashing into one another. I witnessed this from the rear view mirror of my vehicle. As the cars began to collide I Accelerated as the crashing vehicles came sliding towards me. The car directly behind me was A fatality.

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR



# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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COUNTY:

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DATE OF ACCIDENT

1 ☐ THP 3 ☐ SO  
2 ☐ CPD 4 ☐ OTHER

CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

HAMILTON

3 3

MO. DAY YR.  
6 25 15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME:

D.O.B.:

SEX:

RACE:

HOME PHONE:

WORK PHONE:

CIRCLE ONE:

DRIVER

PASSENGER

PEDESTRIAN HIT

WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

I was two cars ahead of the Accident when looking through my rear view mirror and saw cars in the middle lane moving over and then I saw the tractor trailer hitting the automobiles pushing them out of the way cars turning around and exploding and then that was it.

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR

# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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2 ☐ CPD 4 ☐ OTHER

NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY  
CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY:  
HAMILTON

CODE  
3 3

DATE OF ACCIDENT  
MO. DAY YR.  
6 25 15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME: [REDACTED] D.O.B.: [REDACTED] SEX: [REDACTED] RACE: African American  
Male  
ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]  
WORK PHONE: [REDACTED]

CIRCLE ONE: DRIVER PASSENGER PEDESTRIAN HIT WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

Stop at construction zone, I heard a boom, I looked up in my mirror I saw smoke and cars scattering like someone was clearing them out with a snow plow, and I see a grey peterbilt come out the rubbish still pushing the car he hit. And he dragged the car to the side rail. I got out and gave my fire extinguisher to help put out the fire

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR



# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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COUNTY:

CODE

DATE OF ACCIDENT

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2 ☐ CPD 4 ☐ OTHER

CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

HAMILTON

3 3

MO.

DAY

YR.

6

25

15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME:

SEX:

RACE:

ADDRESS:

HOME PHONE:

WORK PHONE:

CIRCLE ONE: DRIVER ☐ PASSENGER ☐ PEDESTRIAN HIT ☐ WITNESS ☒

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE: F T S RAMP

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

I WAS FOLLOWING TRUCK IN TRAVEL LANE, SAW TRUCK TURN TO THE RIGHT FROM THE TRAVEL LANE GO THRU THE SLOW LANE AND HIT STATIONARY CAR THAT WAS BETWEEN RAMP AND SLOW LANE. CAR EXPLODED UPON IMPACT AND WAS IMMEDIATELY ENVELOPED IN INTENSE FIRE.

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR

# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY

CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY:

HAMILTON

CODE

3 3

DATE OF ACCIDENT

MO. DAY YR.  
 6 25 15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME: [REDACTED] D.O.B.: [REDACTED] SEX: [REDACTED] RACE: [REDACTED]

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]

WORK PHONE: [REDACTED]

CIRCLE ONE: DRIVER PASSENGER PEDESTRIAN HIT WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

... merging on to 75 NORTH when traffic was slowed to almost  
 a crawl when the 18 wheeler pulled beside me running about  
 60 or better never got to get on brakes til first vehicle was  
 hit cars went left and right a lady flew across 75 and  
 just in front of her the small car went up in flames  
 I had no fire exten. but a guy in a truck pulled up  
 had one but flames in cars were too much for small  
 fire ext. walked to first victim that was thrown across  
 road dead. then walked to see if we could help others

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR

# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY  
 CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

15-062183

COUNTY:  
 HAMILTON

CODE  
 3 3

DATE OF ACCIDENT  
 MO. DAY YR.  
 6 25 15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME: [REDACTED] D.O.B.: [REDACTED] SEX: M RACE: W

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]

WORK PHONE:

CIRCLE ONE: DRIVER PASSENGER PEDESTRIAN HIT WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

~~Q~~ I was at Holiday Inn on The  
 phone with my wife and saw  
 18 wheeler never stop and Hit The  
 Car's

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR



# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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				DATE OF ACCIDENT MO.    DAY    YR.			

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED                      TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME:	[REDACTED]	D.O.B.:	[REDACTED]	SEX:	M	RACE:	W
ADDRESS:	[REDACTED]			HOME PHONE:	[REDACTED]		
	[REDACTED]			WORK PHONE:	[REDACTED]		
CIRCLE ONE: <u>DRIVER</u> PASSENGER    PEDESTRIAN HIT    WITNESS							

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

2007 Chevy Uplander

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

I saw "Left Lane Closed" sign and changed lanes to the one to the right of the closing lane. He slowed down to around 5mph due to the volume of traffic. I heard a loud noise behind me. I looked in my side mirror and saw several vehicle being pushed toward us. The next thing that I remembered was my vehicle (Chevy Uplander) bouncing around and hitting other vehicles, but not sure which ones. After exiting my vehicle, I saw a semi truck against the concrete wall ahead of him, with a car pinned between the truck and wall.



SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR

# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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2 ☐ CPD 4 ☐ OTHER

NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY

CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY:

HAMILTON

CODE

3 3

DATE OF ACCIDENT

MO. 6 DAY 25 YR. 15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME: [REDACTED] D.O.B.: [REDACTED] SEX: F RACE: W

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]

WORK PHONE: [REDACTED]

CIRCLE ONE: DRIVER PASSENGER PEDESTRIAN HIT WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

2007 Chery Uplander

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

had to come to a stop for traffic  
car from behind hit us and push  
our car into the one in front of us.

[REDACTED]

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR



TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT		PAGE <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>	
NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT		LOCAL AGENCY USE COUNTY HAMILTON	REFERENCE NUMBER DATE OF ACCIDENT MO. DAY YR.

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME	[REDACTED]	D.O.B.	[REDACTED]	SEX	M	RACE	W
ADDRESS	[REDACTED]			HOME PHONE	[REDACTED]		
				WORK PHONE	Cell [REDACTED]		
CIRCLE ONE: <u>DRIVER</u> PASSENGER PEDESTRIAN HIT WITNESS							

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE: 2007 Chevy Uplander

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

I saw "Left Lane Closed" sign and changed lanes to the one to the right of the closing lane. He slowed down to around 5mph due to the volume of traffic. I heard a loud noise behind me. I looked [REDACTED] saw several vehicle being pushed towards us. The next thing that I remembered was my vehicle (Chevy Uplander) bouncing around and hitting other vehicles, but not sure which ones. After exiting my vehicle, I saw a semi truck against the concrete wall ahead of him, with a car pinned between the truck and wall.

[REDACTED]

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR

# TENNESSEE UNIFORM TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT — DIAGRAM SUPPLEMENT

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☒ CPD ☐ OTHER

NAME OF INVESTIGATING AGENCY  
 CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY:  
 HAMILTON

CODE  
 3 3

DATE OF ACCIDENT  
 MO. 6 DAY 25 YR. 15

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

TRAFFIC STATEMENT

NAME: [REDACTED] D.O.B. [REDACTED] SEX: F RACE: W

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]

WORK PHONE: [REDACTED]

CIRCLE ONE: DRIVER PASSENGER PEDESTRIAN HIT WITNESS

IF DRIVER OR PASSENGER, IN WHICH VEHICLE:

2007 Chery Uplander

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:

Had to come to a stop for traffic  
 car from behind hit us and push  
 our car into the one in front of us.

[REDACTED]

SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR